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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXX, Issue No. 206
FRIDAY OCTOBER 16, 2020
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75¢

Cultural show entertains *Kashima* sailors

RELATED NEWS
➤ Japan military training vessel visits Saipan. PAGE 12

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Dancers of the Chamolinian Cultural Village, Man Antigu, Domatsuri Warriors, and the Saipan Awaodori Team performed yesterday at the Charlie Dock on Saipan to entertain See CULTURAL on Page 4

The JDS *Kashima*, a Japanese military training vessel, arrived at the Port of Saipan last Wednesday afternoon and will be leaving today. Yesterday, Pacific Development Inc. organized special performances for the visitors, including traditional Chamorro and Carolinian dancers, and the Saipan Awaodori Team. Although those on the training vessel did not disembark due to COVID-19 protocols, the performers were still able to give the visitors a warm welcome. Shortly after, a small group of crewmembers, while remaining onboard, grabbed their band equipment and performed a number of traditional Japanese songs. NEIL FAMA

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Oct. 15, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	3,266	75	3,341
Recovered	2,190	95	2,285
Active	920	75	995
Deaths	60	1	61
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		57,090	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	77	0	77
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		19,345*	

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Hyatt lease extension backed

» Governor says property appraisal has been done, govt only waiting for Hyatt's official proposal

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
Red: Least safe
Orange
Yellow
Blue
Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has disclosed that the government is just awaiting Hyatt Regency Saipan's official proposal for the next 40 years regarding its expiring public land lease.

Speaking at a radio press briefing last Tuesday, Torres said that it is his understanding based on the last information he received that the govern- See HYATT on Page 4

Way to appeal PUA denials opened

The CNMI Department of Labor announced yesterday procedures for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance applicants who are denied benefits and want to appeal the department's decision.

"We are beginning to receive more requests for ap- See DOL on Page 4

DPW: OPA decision on $3.8M landfill contract protest 'premature, improper'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Works said the Office of the Public Auditor's decision to "abdicate its duty and prematurely issue a final decision" regarding the appeal of See DPW on Page 4

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PHI Pharmacy now carries a full line of free vitamins as part of its Supplement Program.
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India posts more than 63,000 new cases of the coronavirus, an increase of over 8,000 from yesterday.
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LIFE & STYLE
With 16 nominations in tow, Post Malone won nine honors at the 2020 Billboard Music Awards.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

DYS opens new office at the Kagman Community Center

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new office of the Division of Youth Services at the Kagman Community Center in Kagman last Wednesday.
NORMAN DEL ROSARIO

After nearly two years in the making, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services officially opened an office at the Kagman Community Center in Kagman last Wednesday.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios led the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which was also attended by acting DCCA secretary Robert Hunter, who is also a special adviser to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres; DYS administrator Vivian Sablan, vice speaker Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Board of Education chair Janice A. Tenorio, and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada.

Sablan said that Oct. 14 marked a "special day" because it is a few months shy of the Kagman Community Center's 20th anniversary. DYS' Kagman Community Center office was supposed to open in March 2020 but it got pushed back due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sablan earlier said that DYS plans to have activities at the KCC from Monday to Friday once the facility is up and running and to also have services like the Nutrition Assistance Program under DCCA to make it accessible to the Kagman community. She added that they wanted to be able to provide different programs so that the Kagman community won't have to travel so far to get assistance.

In upcoming weeks, DYS plans to launch an after-school program at the center, in partnership with the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Carolinian Affairs Office, the Indigenous Affairs Office, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and, the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, Sablan said.

Palacios applauded DCCA officials and NMHC for "making sure that this project is done right." He also thanked the Capital Improvement Project office for providing the funds for the new office.

Additionally, the community center was able to obtain a $430,000 community development block grant provided to DYS through the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., and a $145,000 CIP fund for the storm mitigation project, which DYS will use to get a generator and install typhoon shutters.

Candidates at a Glance

The Saipan Tribune will be coming out with a supplement,

#voteCNMI

in October 29 featuring candidates in the November election.

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Independent audit identifies some deficiencies in NMHC's compliance

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Notes $149,048 in questioned costs
» NMHC officials say corrective action plans provide responses

In an independent audit on the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., the Office of the Public Auditor identified certain deficiencies in its internal controls over compliance and found $149,048 in questioned costs.

According to the independent audit conducted by Deloitte Deloitte & Touche LLC on NMHC's financial statements for the year that ended Sept. 30, 2019, they identified certain deficiencies in internal control over compliance that they consider to be material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

The auditor, however, said their opinion is that the schedule of expenditures of federal awards to NMHC is fairly stated in all financial statements as a whole.

On Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program, of the 40 tenant files tested, aggregating $37,602 of a total population of $1,272,062, some of the deficiencies noted were $6,224 worth of questioned costs. The auditor said the statement of unemployment, affidavit of zero income, affidavit as to assets, and assets disposition were on file, but the forms were not filled, with no indication as to whether the forms are applicable to the tenant.

Another one (2%), the affidavit as to assets was not notarized. Another one (or 2%), the auditor said, the income reported by the applicant/tenant was not included in the Form HUD. The auditor said that, in these cases, NMHC did not effectively apply controls over compliance with applicable eligibility requirements. The effect is that NMHC is in noncompliance with applicable eligibility requirements, and questioned costs of $6,224 exist as the projected questioned cost exceeds the threshold.

The auditor recommended that NMHC should strengthen controls over compliance with applicable eligibility requirements by having a checklist and reviewing it against the tenant files to ascertain that all required forms and information are completed and filed.

With respect to other case of Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program that has questioned costs of $778, the auditor said that in one instance (or 2%), the inspector did not indicate overall housing quality inspection results in the inspection form. The auditor said they are unable to determine whether NMHC complied with the housing quality standards, whether any repairs are required and whether actions were taken by NMHC to address any deficiencies.

In another case (or 2%) with questioned cost of $7,120 under the same program, NMHC inspector reports for the following unit did not indicate if the deficiencies pertain to the tenant or NMHC or both.

Further, the auditor said, the work order did not indicate whether tenant deficiencies were corrected and charged. The effect is that NMHC is in noncompliance with applicable special tests and provisions requirements for housing quality standards. The auditor recommended that NMHC should strengthen controls over compliance with applicable special tests and provisions requirements for housing quality standards. The auditor said responsible personnel should monitor housing quality inspection procedures so that any deficiencies noted during inspections are documented and addressed.

With respect to Community Development Block Grants program on the area equipment and real property management, the auditor found that a reconciliation was not performed between NMHC's records ($26,995) and the Fiscal Division's records ($406,995), resulting in a variance of $380,000.

The auditor said one asset with a description of Valley Inn property in the Fiscal Division's records costing $380,000 is missing in the master listing.

The auditor said inventory performed for four subrecipients indicated discrepancies in the count for one subrecipient. The auditor said information was provided that NMHC has followed up with the subrecipient as to resolution of the discrepancies, but no response was provided by the subrecipients. As a result, the auditor said, NMHC is in noncompliance with applicable equipment and real property management requirements. The auditor recommended that NMHC should establish and implement controls over compliance with applicable equipment and real property management requirements.

The auditor said responsible personnel should maintain and update equipment listings, as well as implement procedures for maintaining and safeguarding equipment against loss, damage or theft.

On the Home Investment Partnerships Program eligibility area, the auditor found deficiencies in 21 loan files tested for compliance with annual requirements. For one (or 5%) that has questioned costs of $20,000, the auditor said, the homeowner's property insurance coverage was either not on file or not timely obtained. For two (or 10%), the auditor said, the homeowner's property insurance coverage was timely obtained; however, the property was partially insured. The auditor said no questioned costs are presented for this as the insurance coverage limit was higher than the outstanding loan balance.

For two (or 10%), the auditor said, annual recertifications were either not performed or not timely performed during fiscal year 2019.

No questioned costs are presented as annual recertifications were subsequently performed.

For two (or 10%), the auditor said, the signed affidavit of principal residence signed by the borrower was not on file.

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$20K bail for man who allegedly punched girlfriend

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Superior Court imposed a $20,000 cash bail on a man who allegedly punched his girlfriend several times.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a $20,000 cash bail on Florencio Quitugua Richards, 42, who is accused of punching his girlfriend many times and using a piece of metal to hit one of the tires of her vehicle.

Richards was remanded to the custody of the Department of Corrections after the hearing last Tuesday, and was ordered to return to court for arraignment on Oct. 20, at 9am.

Richards was previously convicted in the U.S. District Court for the NMI for distributing methamphetamine or "ice" while employed as a police officer. In 2011, he was sentenced to 24 months' imprisonment.

During the preliminary hearing, Bogdan found probable cause to charge Richards with assault and battery, tampering with vehicle (criminal mischief), and disturbing the peace but no probable cause on the charge of vandalism.

Richards was represented by chief public defender Douglas Hartig while assistant attorney general Steve Kessel appeared for the government.

According to court documents, early morning of Oct. 5, 2020, Richards and his girlfriend had arrived at her apartment and they were arguing after coming from a bar.

The girlfriend told police that when she told Richards to go to his mother's house, he started kicking the door and after the third time, he broke it.

The victim said she tried to hold the door but Richards pushed it so hard that she stumbled and fell on the couch.

She told police that Richards then punched her on the forehead and kept punching her about 10 times.

She said when she put up her two hands to block his punches, Richards then punched her hands.

Her two teenage sons eventually pushed Richards out of the apartment.

Witnesses told police that Richards then used a piece of metal to hit one of the tires of her car.

DPW

From Page 1

the protest by three companies over DPW's award of a $3.8-million, three-year contract to another company for the operation of the Marpi landfill is improper and negatively affects DPW.

DPW, through assistant attorney general Precious S. Boone, asked Public Auditor Michael Pai on Wednesday to reconsider OPA's final decision in the matter.

DPW also requested Pai to consider hiring outside counsel to fulfill OPA's obligations in this matter, just as it has done in the past.

Tang's Corp., Success International Corp., and SM Enterprises earlier protested DPW's decision to award the Marpi landfill operation contract to a new company, Micronesian Environment Services LLC, because of alleged conflict of interest, improper awarding of contract, anti-competitive practices that poisoned the bidding process, evaluators are not qualified to do the evaluation, the evaluation factors and procedures are unreasonable, and nepotism, among other things.

Boone made the requests to OPA after DPW received Pai's letter dated Oct. 9, 2020, which she believes indicates that OPA is halting the administrative process due to fears that its internal screening process may have been insufficient. Boone said OPA believes this creates an appearance of a conflict, and therefore proposes to enter a final decision on the pending appeals.

"Theoretically, this would allow the parties to go directly to the Commonwealth Superior Court rather than have this matter decided at the administrative level," she said.

Boone pointed out that OPA cannot issue a final decision until "after all information necessary for the resolution of the appeal has been received."

She said the "information" referenced here includes the full agency report from the Division of Procurement and Supply, comments on the agency report by interested parties, rebuttal statements, and any additional information that may be requested.

Boone said her understanding is that none of this "information" has been received by OPA regarding the appeal of the Procurement and Supply decision related to the contract.

Second, the lawyer said, OPA's decision unfairly forecloses DPW's opportunity to submit comments.

She said that, pursuant to NMI Administrative Code, "comments on the agency report shall be filed with the Public Auditor within 10 working days after the Public Auditor's receipt of the report, with a copy to the agency which furnished the report and to other interested parties."

Boone said once interested parties submit their comments they become part of the administrative record, which will ultimately go to the Superior Court, should the parties decide to appeal the OPA's final decision.

She said by letter dated Oct. 1, 2020, DPW indicated its intention to file comments to the appeal related to the contract. Boone said DPW has not received a copy of the agency report; therefore, the period for submitting its comments has not yet commenced.

She said prematurely issuing a final decision without allowing DPW to submit its comments will result in an incomplete administrative record. She said this will deprive DPW of the opportunity to be heard regarding the effect OPA's decision would have on this critical contract.

Citing a 2013 OPA decision, Boone noted that in the past, OPA hired outside counsel when its own legal counsel was unable to handle an appeal. "OPA should adopt a similar approach here to ensure that the parties are not deprived of their opportunity to weigh in on the appeal at the administrative level," she said.

In December 2013, DPW awarded Tang's Corp. with a six-month emergency contract to operate the landfill for some $372,000. DPW then approved a three-month extension of that contract and subsequently another five-year contract.

The five-year contract between DPW and Tangs Corp. expired in October 2019, but the contractor was then allowed to continue operating because the request for proposal process was ongoing at the time.

DOL

From Page 1

peals from the PUA applicants, and these instructions are intended to provide guidance to the applicants. We know that the PUA program is a new and complex program, but the department is here to ensure that all appeals are timely heard and resolved," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente.

If a PUA applicant is denied benefits and disagree with the issued notice or determination, they may request reconsideration or file an appeal to the CNMI Department of Labor. The department has become aware of a technical glitch or error from the determinations generated by the online portal, which wrongfully includes the Guam Department of Labor instructions for filing an appeal.

CNMI DOL has already taken steps with the online portal vendor to correct this issue. While this issue is being corrected, CNMI claimants are advised to disregard Guam instructions and file their request with the CNMI, using the Form for Reconsideration or Appeal published under the "Forms & Publications" tab on the department's website, www.marianaslabor.net.

To file the request, fill out the form with all the required information and submit to the appropriate office, as indicated in the instructions. You may submit additional information or supporting documents with your request.

Instructions for reconsideration

Reconsideration means that the PUA coordinators within the Division of Employment Services will review its prior determination and consider any new information. Requests for reconsideration must be delivered to the CNMI Department of Labor Division of Employment Services within 10 calendar days after the determination or redetermination was mailed to you. Requests for reconsideration can be dropped off in person (DOL Building 1334, Ascension Drive) or delivered by mail (Division of Employment Service (PUA HQ), PO Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950).

Instructions for appeal

Appeal means that the Administrative Hearing Office will hold an administrative hearing and consider all relevant and credible evidence to determine whether the determination or amended determination was correct. Appeals must be submitted to the Administrative Hearing Office within 10 calendar days after the determination or redetermination was issued. The appeal period may be extended to 30 calendar days by a showing of good cause. Appeals may be filed in person (DOL Building 1357, Mednilla Ave.) or electronically mailed to hearing@dol.gov.mp. Logistical questions for appeals may be directed to:

Administrative Hearing Office
1357 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill,
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-3293
Web: www.marianaslabor.net | Email: hearing@dol.gov.mp

Important notes

Claimants cannot pursue a reconsideration and appeal at the same time. In the event a claimant files concurrent requests for reconsideration and appeal, the appeal will be dismissed so reconsideration can be finalized. In the event that the claimant still disagrees with the new or amended determination after reconsideration, the claimant may file an appeal. Alternatively, the claimant may skip reconsideration and proceed directly to appeals.

Appeals are legal proceedings that are bound to certain rules of practice and procedure. To prepare for appeals, the claimant (i.e., appellant) should follow the instructions listed in the Notice of Hearing and be ready to prove the details of their claims.

For more information and frequently asked questions related to the Administrative Hearing Office, refer to the AHO FAQ published under the "Forms and Publications Tab" of the department website, www.marianaslabor.net, or contact 664-3293. In light of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Administrative Hearing Office will conduct hearings telephonically or online, when possible. ***(PR)***

CULTURAL

From Page 1

crewmembers of Japanese military ship *Kashima*, who watched the performances portside as they could not disembark due to COVID-19 protocols.

The boat's crew band, called the Japanese Training School Band, showed their appreciation back to the performers by giving them a show of their own, playing a handful of traditional Japanese songs.

The *Kashima,* a training vessel of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, dropped anchor on Saipan last Oct. 14. Those aboard the ship could not disembark and explore the island, though, due to COVID-19 protocols, which would have required them to undergo quarantine and testing had they gotten off the ship. They were, however, able to get a front-row seat for performances.

According to Hiroko Tajima, vice chairwoman of the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas, *Kashima*, arrived on Saipan Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock and will be leaving on the morning of Oct. 16.

Jose Quan of Saipan Shipping Co., the agent who coordinated with the ship for their docking, said that the ship stopped to refuel and get a fresh supply of water. The ship's route was Anchorage and Nome in Alaska, then Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and now on its way back to Japan.

The Japanese society, Japan Saipan Travel Association, and the Japanese consular office arranged the performances.

Tajima said that, on behalf of the visitors, the Japan consulate, the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas, and the Japanese community offered a memorial flower and prayer at the American Memorial Park and at Marpi.

Tajima assured that the military personnel may not have been able to get down from the ship, but they had a nice view in watching the performances that the Japan group and consulate put together.

HYATT

From Page 1

ment appraisal on the property has already been done, but not the official proposal on how much Hyatt would be investing and how that investment would go through in the next 40 years.

Any land lease agreement, especially one governing the renewal of 40 years, needs to have an appraisal of the property in question, Torres said. Then there is an official proposal on what the investor will do and how much investment will be infused into the property.

"I've said in the beginning since Day 1 that I would like to see Hyatt get the extension," said Torres, adding that, at the same time, he wants Hyatt to make the investment that is much needed here in the Commonwealth.

The governor pointed out that the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan made a proposal before COVID-19 happened and stuck to that investment. He said the CNMI looks forward to seeing that investment go through.

Hyatt's 40-year public land lease will expire in December 2021. The land lease of Fiesta Resort & Spa, which is located adjacent to Hyatt, is supposed to expire in June 2021, but it just got a new 40-year lease.

The recent enactment of Public Law 20-84 increases the terms of public land leases of up to 40 years, plus an extension of 15 years, for a total of 55 years. It also authorizes certain public land leases to be amended and extend existing lease terms up to 55 years.

The law gives the Department of Public Lands the authority to negotiate new public land leases to certain existing lessees under new terms and considerations even without publishing a request for proposal.

Early this month, House Committee on Natural Resources vice chair Joel Castro Camacho (R-Saipan) disclosed that negotiation between DPL and Hyatt about the hotel's expiring public land lease has been in the back burner due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Resources Economic Development and Program held a joint public hearing last month to know the the status of the lease agreement negotiations.

Man pleads guilty to 'ice' trafficking

A man who was allegedly caught selling methamphetamine or "ice" in a sting operation has pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal.

Fernando Cadag Jr. pleaded guilty to a count of trafficking a controlled substance and was sentenced to five years in prison, all suspended except for one year and six months.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo ordered Cadag to report to the Department of Corrections on Nov. 20 to serve his sentence, which was imposed on Tuesday.

According to his sentence, Cadag will serve the 18-month prison sentence day for day without the possibility of parole or early release or other similar programs. Upon completing his prison sentence, Cadag will be placed on three-year probation.

Cadag admitted that he was actively distributing and selling "ice" on island.

According to court information, Cadag was caught on March 7, 2018, during a sting operation by the Drug Enforcement Task Force, which used a cooperating source.

At 2:09pm that day, the cooperating source and Cadag agreed to meet at the Saipan Vegas Hotel where they'd ride together in Cadag's vehicle to his home in Susupe where they'd get his supply of "ice." Later that day, at 3:01pm, the cooperating source met with DETF officers and turned over a small baggie containing a crystalline substance, which later tested for methamphetamine.

Officers noted that Cadag had his 2-year-old son with him when he and the cooperating source made the transaction. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

'I've supported NMTI since Day 1'

As the Northern Marianas Technical Institute explores ways of reopening its facility for staff and students, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expects to soon receive the institution's transition report "and we will go from there."

Public Law 20-92, which governs the conversion of the institute into a government entity, requires NMTI to submit a transition report to the Executive Branch and Legislature and Torres said in his budget letter to the Legislature said that NMTI has not submitted the report yet. It is presumed that once the report is in, this will allow the Executive Branch to allocate funds to NMTI.

Speaking at a weekly radio news briefing, Torres stated that he has been a big supporter of NMTI since Day 1, and that he has been on the case since the opening of the institute that the late businessman Anthony Pellegrino and Vic Cepeda started. Torres added that he has been happy with how far the institute has been doing, and the growth that they've had.

As of Tuesday, Torres stated that there are a few things that they need to take into consideration while they wait for NMTI to submit their transition report. Torres recognizes that the institution can't transition to online classes because NMTI is a trade school and its students cannot "easily transition" into online courses to acquire their certificate.

As soon as the administration receives NMTI's transition report, Torres said that they will go from there.

At the NMTI board meeting last Oct. 9, only Richard Kautz and Deron Mendiola, two of the seven board members, along with NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres, were present. The meeting had to be canceled due to a lack of quorums. Another board meeting will be scheduled.

McPhetres stated in previous interviews that NMTI currently has 300 active students, but has yet to ask their 23 staff to come back due to lack of funds. ***(Justine Nauta)***

2 of 3 released in 'ice' case

Two of three individuals who were charged in federal court with conspiracy to possess methamphetamine have been released.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona released Noribel Adao Mendez and Mary Rose Chelo Herradura on an unsecured bond last Tuesday. Their jury trial is set for Dec. 15 at 10am.

Mendez and Herradura were represented by court-appointed counsels Mark Hanson and Robert T. Torres, respectively. Both pleaded not guilty to the charges against them.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe asked the court last Oct. 9 to keep the third defendant, Jesse Reyes Babauta, in continued detention.

Colin Thompson, Babauta's attorney, opposed the motion but Manglona granted the prosecution's motion to detain Babauta. Babauta's jury trial will start on Dec. 15.

Babauta had also pleaded guilty to the charges against him.

The U.S. Attorney's Office charged Mendez, Herradura, and Babauta with one count of conspiracy to possess methamphetamine or "ice" with intent to distribute. The case was recently unsealed by the federal court.

According to the indictment, the three defendants conspired with other persons between Sept. 26 and 28, 2020, to possess meth, with intent to distribute.

The U.S. government also wants to forfeit any money or property from the offense upon conviction of the defendants. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Proposed changes to pesticide regs

The "Proposed Amendment to the Pesticide Regulations" that was published on Sept. 28, 2020, in Volume 42 of the *Commonwealth Register* is now available for public review and comments.

This proposed amendment seeks to extend the duration of the pesticide applicator certifications from three years to five years. This temporary modification to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's pesticide regulatory program is intended to mitigate the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

To implement the Governor's Second Amendment Executive Order 2020-04, under which Directive 11 strongly recommends "social distancing of at least six feet whenever possible and reasonable," BECQ has reduced the number of persons who may sit for BECQ's monthly pesticide applicator examination. BECQ recognizes that, as a result, applicators whose certifications have expired or will soon expire may be unable to complete the examination for renewal certification.

BECQ invites the public to review and provide comment on the Proposed Amendment to the Pesticide Regulations by submitting comments in person to BECQ office at the Gualo Rai Center on Middle Road, by mail, or by email.

Mailed comments should be addressed to BECQ administrator Eli D. Cabrera, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan MP, 96950. Emailed comments should be written to: elicabrera.becq@gmail.com.

Comments should contain the subject line "Proposed Amendment to the Pesticide Regulations" or similar. All comments must be received by BECQ no later than Oct. 28, 2020, to be considered by BECQ in preparation of the final adoption of the regulation.

Pursuant to CMC 9104(a)(2), BECQ will fully consider all written and oral submissions respecting the proposed regulations. ***(PR)***

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AGENDA

***** October 21, 2020 *****

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Main Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. However, pursuant to Governor Torres' Executive Orders and Directives on the ongoing threat from the Covid-19 pandemic and the limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via videoconference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:

A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes. September 30, 2020

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Executive Session will be held for the whole day on Wednesday, October 21, 2020):

A. Consultation with the Legal Counsel, Assistant Attorney General.
B. Report by the Commission's Enforcement & Investigations, Audit, and Compliance Divisions.

III. REPORTS: (Regular monthly meeting will resume on October 22, 2020)

A. Report by the Chairman
B. Report by the Acting Executive Director

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

A. Casino Licensee – Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") -- Updates:
   1. Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR"). Update on the construction project
   2. IPI Personnel:
      a) Organizational Chart Update
      b) Resident Employment Objectives
      c) Status of Employee Payroll
      d) Status of Employee Housing
   3. IPI Financial Matters.
      a) Annual Casino License Fee
      b) Casino Regulatory Fee

B. Other Miscellaneous Matters

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update on House Bill No. 21-11, HS1, SD1, SD2, & SD3
B. Other Old Business Matters

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consideration and Adoption for Publication for Public Comments Proposed Amendment to:

1. §175-10.1-040(h) (fix spelling error); §175-10.1-040(q)(3) (expands definition)
2. §175-10.1-040(t) (renames license); §175-10.1-050(n) (amends definition)
3. §175-10.1-050 (duplicate renumbered to 055); §175-10.1-105(h) (change name)
4. §175-10.1-110(c) (pr)(supersede old bylaws); §175-10.1-115(b)(2) (punctuation)
5. §175-10.1-115(f) (adds explanation); §175-10.1-125(d) (adds meeting flexibility)
6. §175-10.1-135(b)(2), (c) (adds registrant); §175-10.1-155(a)-(e) (adds registrant and adds may)
7. §175-10.1-205(e)-(f), (i) (pr) (adds reporting requirement)
8. §175-10.1-305(a)-(b) (renames license); §175-10.1-325 (adds registration)
9. §175-10.1-310(a)-(b), (d)-(f) (renames, adds count rooms, and prohibits disclosures)
10. §175-10.1-425(a)-(c) (amends withdrawal requirements); §175-10.1-501 (renames)
11. §175-10.1-505(b)-(d), (f) (renames); §175-10.1-510(b)-(c) (renames)
12. §175-10.1-515(a), (d) (renames); §175-10.1-525(a)-(c) (renames)
13. §175-10.1-530 (renames); §175-10.1-550(b) (renames)
14. §175-10.1-560(d) (clarifies); §175-10.1-565(c), (d), (f) (renames)
15. §175-10.1-570(b) (pr)(payment reports); §175-10.1-580(b) (renames)
16. §175-10.1-590(b) (delete surplussage); §175-10.1-595(b) (clarifies)
17. §175-10.1-601 - §175-10.1-675 (streamline License Agreement compliance)
18. §175-10.1-705(c) (adds count room); §175-10.1-805(c) (change name)
19. § 175-10.1-905 (change name); §175-10.1-920(b)(4) (change name)
20. §175-10.1-925(a) (adds registration); §175-10.1-930 (changes name/registration)
21. §175-10.1-1015(c) (clarification); §175-10.1-1035(b) (clarification)
22. §175-10.1-1120 (changes names); §175-10.1-1130(c) (increases time limit)
23. §175-10.1-1201 (changes name); §175-10.1-1215 (changes names/registrants)
24. §175-10.1-1225(a)-(d) (clarifies fees); §175-10.1-1301(f) (amends definition)
25. §175-10.1-1305(a)-(e) (changes names/registrations and adds licensure exemption)
26. §175-10.1-1310(b)-(e) and §175-10.1-1315 (changes names/registrations)
27. §175-10.1-1320(b) (adds registration); §175-10.1-1325(a)-(b) (adds registration)
28. §175-10.1-1330(a) (adds registration); §175-10.1-1360 (adds registration)
29. §175-10.1-1365(d)-(e) (adds registration and deletes provisional vendor licensure)
30. §175-10.1-1375 (changes name); §175-10.1-1385(a); (d)-(g) (adds Chairman)
31. §175-10.1-1390(a)-(c) (adds registration and amends exemption)
32. §175-10.1-1525(b) (adds Chairman); §175-10.1-1530 (grammar)
33. §175-10.1-1535 (pr)(limitations); §175-10.1-1610(b)-(c) (clarifies)
34. §175-10.1-1825 (adds registration); §175-10.1-1835(d) (pr)(punish false statement)
35. §175-10.1-1865 (pr)(require working capital) §175-10.1-1910(c) (amend timelines)
36. §175-10.1-2001(b)(5)(i), (viii), (e) (grammar); §175-10.1-2020(c) (clarify)
37. §175-10.1-2305(b) (amend certification); §175-10.1-2310(a) (add registrant)
38. §175-10.1-2325(e) (clarify); §175-10.1-2405(a)(2) (pr)(pandemic closure)
39. §175-10.1-2510(a)-(b) (amend definitions); §175-10.1-2540 (amend offense)
40. §175-10.1-2525(c) (pr)(continuing violations) §175-10.1-2560 (pr)(settlements)
41. §175-10.1-2545(a)-(c), (e) (amend penalties); §175-10.1-2605(e), (h)(i) (pr)(junkets)
42. §175-10.1-2635(d) (pr)(payment reports); §175-10.1-2640(a)-(c) (amend fees)
43. §175-10.1-2905(a)-(c) (reduce exclusion); §175-10.1-2910 (amend exclusion list)
44. §175-10.1-2915(a)-(b) (amend exclusion list); §175-10.1-2925(a)-(b) (same)
45. §175-10.1-2935(a)-(c) (reduce exclusion); §175-10.1-2940 (amend exclusion)
46. §175-10.1-2945(a), (e) (same); §175-10.1-2960 (amend duties)
47. §175-10.1-2965(a)-(c), (e), (g) (amend procedures); §175-10.1-3001(a) (clarifies)
48. §175-10.1-3005 (clarifies patron dispute language)

B. Commission's Fiscal Year 2020 Citizen Centric Report
C. Other New Business Matters

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this Agenda and take action on the amended Agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via the video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

/s/ Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero
Chairman

'Polling sites are safe'

NEIL FAMA

Staff of the Commonwealth Election Commission man the entrance to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Oct. 13, which is the first day of early voting on Saipan and the Northern Islands. All early voters were subjected to temperature checks before entering the voting booth.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force have been working together to assure the community that polling sites during early voting and on election day on Nov. 3 are safe from the coronavirus.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Tuesday, COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez said they already put protocols in place at the early election sites for Saipan and Northern Islands at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Koblerville Youth Center in Koblerville, Tanapag Youth Center in Tanapag, and Kagman Community Center in Kagman.

Villagomez said that they, together with the representative of Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, have given CEC all the necessary guidelines for voting activities.

The 21-day early voting for Saipan and Northern Islands commenced last Tuesday. So far, the early voting process has been smooth and fast.

Villagomez disclosed that they coordinated with the CEC Monday night to sanitize and disinfect the voting sites. He said the CEC, which has hired a cleaning service, has put in a lot of work, a lot of planning, and added more poll workers for assistance.

With respect to curbside voting, where a voter is allowed to cast his/her ballot while in a vehicle and outside the polling station, Villagomez said the task force and CEC have been working together to ensure safety while making sure that people get to exercise their right to vote.

"We are monitoring on a daily basis all the regulatory directives…to make sure that they are in place," he said.

Villagomez asked the community to adhere to the poll workers' instructions. "We want to be successful and, as what [Muña] said, we want to continue to be safe in the CNMI," he added.

Students and teachers from 6 schools take part in virtual MINA orientation

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance held a virtual Orientation Workshop for their Schools for Environmental Conservation on Oct. 3, 2020, with this year's theme focusing on climate change.

This program provides opportunities for students and teachers to learn about and work on projects that focus on specific environmental issues. Participants for this year's SFEC include students and their teachers from Mt. Carmel School, Hopwood Middle School, Saipan Community School, Saipan International School, Dandan Middle School, and Tanapag Middle School.

MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero, who kicked off the event with welcoming remarks, said that actions taken today will impact tomorrow. "It is this philosophy of working together toward a common goal that makes us, as islanders, resilient to the challenges that we face. …It is also what makes us at MINA eager to share the knowledge of the many experts who are joining us with their expertise and experience."

Other speakers at the virtual workshop were SFEC program manager Jolly Ann Cruz, who introduced the overall concept of the program; BECQ-DCRM Geographic Information System specialist Rodney Camacho, who shared information on the Reef Report mobile app, which allows its users to report environmental issues such as illegal dumping; BECQ-DCRM staff Mallory Muña and Colleen Flores, who did presentations on climate change; and Micronesia Challenge Young Champion Pheona David, who introduced students to the Micronesia Challenge, an agreement across Micronesia to conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources by 2020.

The students also learned about MINA's Bring Back Our Trees Campaign, a response to super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu. The purpose of this campaign is to plant trees along Saipan's shorelines to support a more resilient natural environment and help prevent sedimentation, soil erosion and further degradation of coral reefs.

Cruz presented the students and their teachers with their task of creating their own Conservation Action Plan activity, a project that they will plan and implement for their campus or village with actions related to the theme of climate change that produce results. Teachers were provided worksheets to use as they begin putting together their school's Conservation Action Plans and the students are now working on their action plans to provide solutions to environmentally-related issues.

Initiated as an environmental teacher camp in 2007, the program expanded in 2012 to include students. Environmental themes through the years have included marine protected areas, terrestrial resources, watersheds, coral reefs, marine debris prevention, and climate change.

Funding for this year's SFEC program is provided by Micronesian Conservation Trust. ***(PR)***

FSM Customs intercepts smuggled weapons and ammo

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The Customs and Tax Administration of the Federated States of Micronesia government intercepted two separate consignments of illegal weaponry in September and October, with the items seized and handed over to the FSM National Police for investigation.

In September, two Customs officers from the Customs Field Office in Yap State were carrying out a routine physical inspection of containers at the Waab Commercial Dock and came across undeclared boxes of gun parts, as well as a bow and arrows.

In October 2020, two Customs officers from the Customs Field Office in Pohnpei State were carrying out a routine physical inspection of a container in Kolonia when they discovered 6,000 rounds of ammunition.

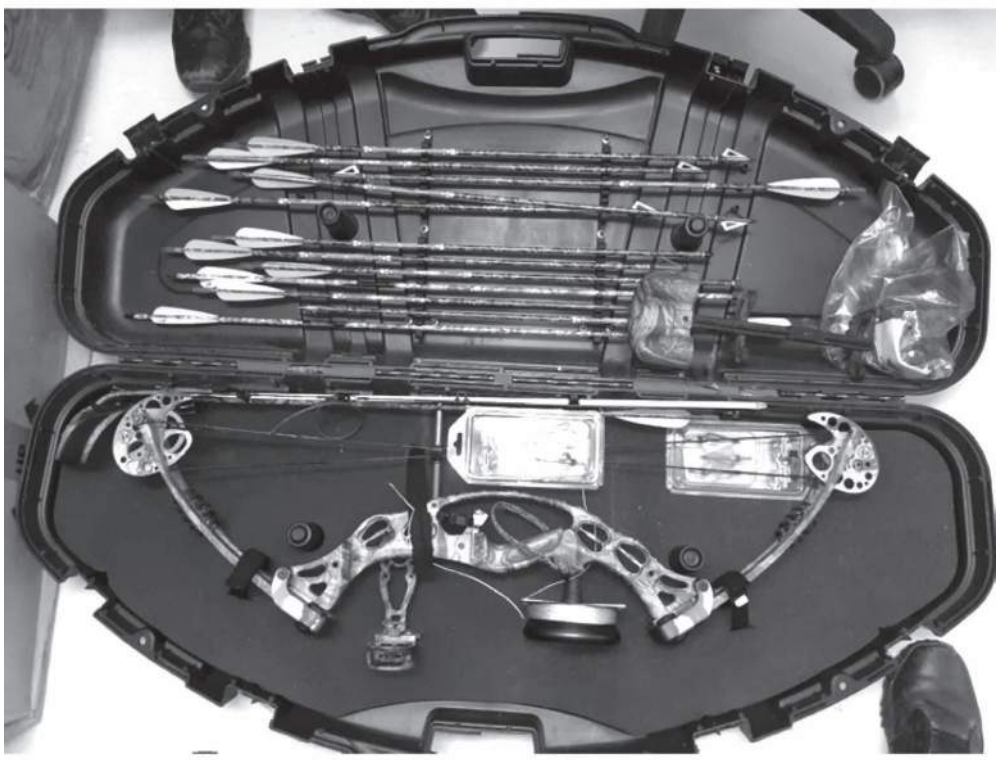
These discoveries came after two cases involving the illegal importation of ammunition were heard by the Pohnpei State Supreme Court, with both cases prosecuted by the FSM Department of Justice.

The first such case occurred in August 2020, wherein Quleen Saimon was convicted and sentenced for illegally importing ammunition in a passenger's checked-in luggage. The second such case occurred in September 2020, with Watson Panuel being convicted and sentenced for the illegal importation of ammunition through the FSM Post Office.

"I encourage all businesses and individuals to abide by the law with regards to their imports, as our Customs Officers are monitoring these imports carefully," said Department of Finance & Administration Secretary Eugene Amor, which has jurisdiction over the Division of Customs & Tax Administration. He said that "all of these cases reflect the cooperative work being carried out by Customs, the FSM National Police, and the FSM Attorney General, to protect our FSM borders against dangerous and illegal imports."

FSM president David W. Panuelo applauded the division for their capable efforts in keeping the FSM safe from dangerous and illegal imports, and the FSM Department of Justice for their thorough and capable investigations and prosecutions.

"FSM is a nation of laws," Panuelo said. "One of the most elemental roles any government plays is to keep its citizens and residents safe from internal and external threats, whether those threats are either invisible or abstract, such as COVID-19 or socio-economic inequities, or highly visible and concrete, such as illegal weapons and ammunition. Life is more than stressful enough for our citizens who are dealing with the effects of economic hardship during the COVID-19 Pandemic. As a society, we don't need, want, or deserve to have such visible and concrete threats to our peace, unity, and liberty, and so I applaud our Customs officers for their diligence in their duty to protecting our country." ***(PR)***



Bow and arrows in a case found in shipping container in Yap in September 2020.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gun parts found in shipping container in Yap in September 2020.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ammunition discovered in a shipping container in Pohnpei in October 2020

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Opinion

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 206
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Another sign of the times: Mass shootings are spiking

Sometime in the dark hours of a recent Sunday night, gunmen opened fire inside an illicit marijuana farm in Riverside County, California, killing seven people. It was, according to data maintained by the Gun Violence Archive, the 28th mass shooting in the state since the beginning of the year, part of a nationwide anomalous trend: While overall violent crime has edged downward this year, homicides have increased in several major cities, including here in Los Angeles.

There also has been a spike in mass shootings (defined as single events in which least four people are wounded or killed) that began in the summer. At around 400 incidents, the number has already surpassed the annual totals in three of the last four years, according to an analysis by online news site the Trace.

Why is this happening? Some experts point to tensions arising from coronavirus pandemic lockdown policies, but they say too little data are available at this point to properly frame the issue. The Trace also reports another troubling reality: Through Aug. 24, nearly half of the nation's mass shootings occurred in majority-Black census tracts, even though fewer than one in 10 tracts are majority Black.

Experts believe the pandemic has exacerbated the preexisting social problems that feed violence in certain areas—the lack of jobs and educational opportunities, reduced access to mental health care and other services and, now, an overlay of social isolation that can bring simmering personal conflicts to a full boil. Mass shootings often begin as domestic disputes, or confrontations among acquaintances. In fact, the Everytown for Gun Safety advocacy group reports that for the decade ending in 2018, six in 10 mass killings (defined as at least four people dead excluding the shooter) occurred in private homes.

Those domestic mass shootings don't grab the public's attention like a school, church or workplace shooting, where the death tallies have been numbingly high. And perceptions of the nature of the violence influences the public response. White males account for the majority of mass shooters, but when one locks his family in the house and then kills them before killing himself, it doesn't draw the same reaction from media or the public as when someone shoots up a school or a church. Mass shootings in low-income, nonwhite neighborhoods perceived by white society to be prone to violence get shrugged off, too, though the pain and anguish are no less. And if there is a clear crime nexus—a gang shooting, or the massacre of seven people at an illicit Riverside County pot farm—public interest is fleeting.

Yet mass shootings have similarities. As the American Psychological Association points out, men commit the

See ANOTHER on Next Page

What I would ask them

By KEITH C. BURRIS
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Keith C. Burris is editor, vice president and editorial director of Block Newspapers *(kburris@post-gazette.com).*

One of the disadvantages of a front-porch and media-availability presidential campaign is that the two major candidates don't get out into the country.

It's a campaign without campaigning.

The so-called swing states are also, mostly, "flyover" states. Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania don't get a lot of attention in nonpresidential years. This year they are getting media buys and staged appearances. But the two candidates are not actually "out there," on the hustings and in the country, as they were earlier in the year in Iowa and New Hampshire, for example.

This is the way it has to be. But, consequently, they don't have much contact with the people, or with an unfiltered and less-aligned local press. And we don't learn much new about Biden or Trump.

So I have been thinking about what I would ask these two men, both of whom I have met but will probably not get to meet this year, if I could.

I have been thinking about what our editorial writers would ask—what editorial writers at any newspaper might ask.

Many might ask Trump about his past tax liabilities and payments. A sharp tack might ask Biden about his family's business dealings.

But somehow I don't think the gotcha questions, posed once more, would reveal much.

Then there are questions that matter profoundly but that haven't gotten much oxygen this year: How, exactly, would Biden advance us on environmental policy, especially if the Senate remains Republican? Or, on a totally different track: Does he now believe there should be any limit to abortion rights, such as a ban on partial birth abortion?

It would be worth asking Trump: Now that you have brought the loss of American manufacturing and the destruction of small-town America to the forefront of our politics, what is your actual plan for bringing manufacturing jobs and small-town America back?

I don't think debates are the format for this, but I would love to ask each man, somehow, about his own values and intellectual and moral development.

I would start by asking Trump and Biden three questions:

First, who are your heroes?

I would ask this as three subsets—personal heroes, political heroes and presidential role models.

Trump is on record as admiring Andrew Jackson. If this is so, I would like to hear why, from him. He also, I believe, admired his father and his recently deceased brother. Wouldn't it be interesting to hear him talk about that?

The past president that a current or would-be president looks to as a model tells you much about that person. Ronald Reagan admired FDR's skills as a great communicator and sought to emulate that skill and style. In terms of values, Reagan liked Calvin Coolidge. Silent Cal didn't think he, or the federal government, possessed "answers."

Mike Pence's hero is Reagan. Who is Kamala Harris'?

If Trump's role model is Jackson, who is Biden's? Harry Truman is an obvious choice. But in a way Biden is presenting himself as Dwight Eisenhower—a bipartisan unifier who will offer us a period of domestic peace and rest from ideological battle and national angst.

Second, I would ask both candidates about books—books that they have recently read, books that they treasured in childhood, books that help form the way each man looks at politics, government and life.

Presidents have to be able to absorb a lot of information fast. But they also need a frame for organizing information. Presidents who are or have been readers are constantly retooling their mental mainframe.

All leaders and complex personalities process information through a personal system of some kind—refining and organizing information not only through personality and character but according to acquired values.

Truman was a reader. So was John F. Kennedy. So was Barack Obama. It's not the only useful qualification for president, certainly. But I wish George W. Bush had read more books, just as I wish Obama had been a governor before he became president.

Finally I would ask Trump to tell me one thing the pundits get totally wrong about him. Then I would ask Biden the same question. Jerry Ford could have said: Well, I am not a klutz. Ronald Reagan could have said: I am not an air-headed actor, I have thought through all of my beliefs. Jimmy Carter: I actually was up to the presidency by the end of my term and was quite capable of seeing the big picture. Think of my emphasis on human rights.

In many years in this racket, one thing I am convinced I have learned about the way the press covers and the public perceives national leaders is that we usually test for the wrong qualities: We test for "charisma" and fundraising ability but not competence or comfort with one's own psyche. We almost always get our leaders wrong in some fairly striking way. The best biographies of Coolidge, Truman, Ike, LBJ and Ford show that.

We are probably getting Trump and Biden wrong, too.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Founding Fathers weigh in on a terrible, bad, no-good week in American history

By JOSEPH J. ELLIS
Los Angeles Times

Historian Joseph J. Ellis' 1996 biography of Thomas Jefferson won the National Book Award. His book Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation *won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for history. His latest book is* American Dialogue: The Founders and Us.

The founders seldom speak to me directly, but after the horrendous display of chaos during the first presidential debate and the coronavirus crisis in the White House afterward—a week in which American political history hit an all-time low—they were apparently aroused to break their customary silence. Why they chose to contact me is beyond my ken, though John Adams said they knew me best because of my incessant intrusions into their papers.

John's grandson, Henry Adams, though not a founder, must hang out with them in heaven, for he began the proceedings as if he were master of ceremonies. A note of levity seemed like it might be welcome, he began, then observed that the Trump-Biden debate reminded him of his long-standing belief that the history of the American presidency was conclusive evidence that Darwin got it exactly backward.

Perhaps because of his senior status, Benjamin Franklin spoke next. He said that the presidential contest inspired him to revise his mischievous essay "Rules By Which a Great Empire May be Reduced to a Small One," which he had aimed at Great Britain and now, sadly, must apply to the United States. He had only written the first line, which went like this: "Take care to elect a commander in chief who is a draft dodger, on record as believing that only fools and losers serve their country."

Franklin then introduced George Washington, calling him "the foundingest father of them all." I could not see Washington—we were not Zooming—but I'm certain he put on his spectacles before he read a passage from his farewell address:

"However political parties may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines by which cunning, ambitious and unprincipled men will subvert the power of the people and usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines that have lifted them to power."

Alexander Hamilton then rose to second Washington's warning about demagogues, mentioning in a barely audible aside that he had actually drafted the farewell address for His Excellency, including the words just quoted. They shared their concern about the vulnerability of all republics to dictatorial takeovers, Hamilton adding that he was actually surprised that it had taken more than two centuries for the fateful day to arrive. He ended with a slap at Joe Biden, whom he described as "a comfortable banality" who should have mustered the courage to challenge Trump to a duel at the debate, as he would have done.

James Madison spoke next, in the same weak voice that caused those present at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 to strain to hear him. It soon became clear that he blamed the nation's current unhappiness on the failure of previous generations to do away with the Electoral College, presumably because Trump never would have become president if the 2016 election had been decided by the popular vote.

Because Madison was instrumental in creating the Electoral College, which now might be called the electoral albatross, he wanted posterity—which is to say us—to know that neither he nor the other delegates in Philadelphia ever believed in the awkward contraption, that it was a last-minute invention driven by what he called "the hurrying influence produced by fatigue and impatience." The "Father of the Constitution" wants us to know that the Electoral College has been an anachronism for over a century.

Thomas Jefferson had to be pushed forward, since he could not abide controversy, and much preferred the written to the spoken word. He forwarded a tweet (Steve Jobs apparently hands out iPhones in heaven): "My faith in the wisdom of the common man has been shaken by their vulnerability to misinformation in this presidential campaign. Prudence dictates that all high school graduates be required to pass the civics test currently required of all immigrants applying for American citizenship."

He added a P.S.: "Trump could not pass!"

"No, no, no!" It was Adams in his eruption mode, always eager to correct Jefferson. Given Trump's encounter with the coronavirus, Adams observed, it was highly inappropriate to ridicule the poor man, suffering as he was from the potentially catastrophic disease that he had so boldly, if wrongly, dismissed.

"Given our heavenly location," Franklin added, no doubt with a wink, "let me conclude our session with a prayer for the soul of our embattled, previously soulless colleague. Let us pray:

"Know that your sins will be forgiven at last
For they soon will reside in that place called the past,
We stand ready to greet you, though it will be a task.
Until then we request that you put on a mask."
All the founders said, "Amen."

A horrifying COVID chart still frightens months later

By MAX NISEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Max Nisen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering biotech, pharma and health care. He previously wrote about management and corporate strategy for* Quartz and Business Insider.

In late June, I highlighted what I deemed a "horrifying" chart showing massive growth in new infections in the U.S. relative to the European Union. A key explanation for the discrepancy was that many U.S. states were moving forward with reopening despite high case counts, while many European countries had waited to "crush the curve" and ensure infections were lower before loosening restrictions.

Now, almost four months later, that same chart remains very scary—but in a different way. For the first time since March, the EU is reporting more new COVID-19 cases on a population-adjusted basis than the U.S., reflecting a second wave of virus outbreaks on the continent.(1) That's even as U.S. per-capita case rates climb from an alarmingly high post-summer plateau.

Both regions are at a dangerous moment. The virus will be harder to control in winter as more people congregate indoors, and resistance to renewed restrictions may make them harder to impose and enforce. Europe's second wave after a quiet summer shows precisely how hard controlling the virus can be.

Yet even as EU per-capita case rates rise past the level of those in the U.S., Europe may have two advantages over America in facing the virus as the dangerous winter season approaches. First, it got its infections under control last spring and that has kept deaths much lower in the intervening months. And it is now taking more steps to control its outbreaks. Meanwhile in the U.S., a lack of concerted action means case loads have stayed at an elevated level, with deaths following suit:

Countries including France, Spain, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Italy are beginning to impose new restrictions, from a broader mask mandate in Italy and at least two weeks of closed bars in the Czech Republic to targeted lockdowns in parts of Madrid. Some of these moves appear to be on the late side given the rate of case growth, and they will take time to have an impact compared with broader lockdowns, but European countries have at least begun to act.

The American response and outlook is potentially more troubling. States have largely been left to set policy on their own, and the Trump administration is not modeling good behavior. Several states that are experiencing concerning outbreaks, including Alabama, Iowa, Indiana, Florida and both North and South Dakota, are among those that have the fewest restrictions on public gatherings and bars and restaurants.

The consequences of failing to contain outbreaks on either side of the Atlantic are clear. Since the spring, and as you might expect from the above chart, the U.S. has recorded more per-capita and total COVID deaths than any other developed country. Overall death rates have dropped as a result of better protection of vulnerable people, catching cases earlier with better testing and improved treatment. But mitigation tactics such as wearing masks and smart social distancing measures could potentially drive death rates even lower.

Every week brings the world closer to better drugs and a vaccine. They're not here yet. But there are things we can do in the meantime to slow the spread. Until the death rate drops closer to zero, it is essential to try.

(1) The EU tally doesn't include Britain, which is also dealing with outbreaks; rewinding Brexit and including U.K. case loads would result in an even larger rise.

ANOTHER

From Page 8

vast majority of gun violence, but a vast majority of men do not commit such acts. Remedies must focus on those who turn to violence as a perceived solution, and that requires, among other tactics, providing programs in schools and other settings designed "to change gendered expectations for males that emphasize self-sufficiency, toughness, and violence, including gun violence."

Of course, there would not be mass shootings were it not for the presence of guns, and so far this year there also has been a surge in gun sales. Through the end of August, the Federal Bureau of Investigation processed nearly 26 million firearm background checks—a loose proxy for gun purchases—which is more than it processed in all of 2017. From 2017 to 2019 it averaged more than 2.2 million background checks a month. So far this year, the rate has jumped almost 50%.

Usually such leaps come when people fear that the government is poised to make it harder to buy guns, often after high-profile mass shootings at schools, churches or other public places. But according to a Brookings Institute report, a propelling factor this year is personal fear arising from the pandemic, augmented by reactions to political unrest and demands for defunding police in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd.

So partway through the pandemic, this is where the nation finds itself—with increased stress, a greater sense of personal isolation, elevated gun sales and less access to jobs and support systems apparently fueling more mass shootings. We can only hope that the pandemic will pass and that the stresses feeding this violence will fade away. But then we'll still have the guns, and the structural racism, and a body politic that has proved incapable of taking the steps necessary to reduce access to firearms while increasing access to the jobs and social services the experts keep telling us are necessary to reduce gun violence.

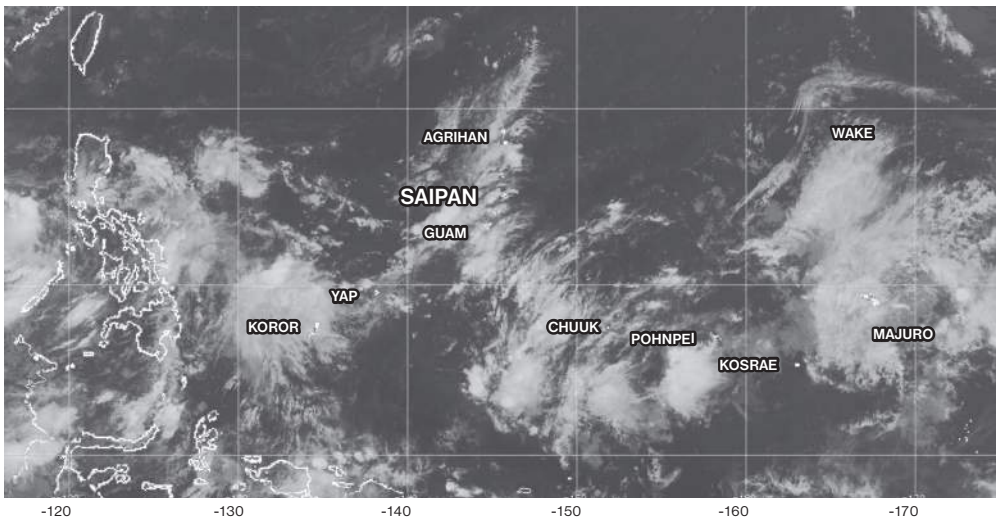
(c) 2020 *Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy becoming mostly cloudy late evening. Isolated showers, then scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms after midnight. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Showers heavy at times on Guam and Rota. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:59 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is moving across the Mariana Islands this morning. Showers and thunderstorms are seen across all islands but shower coverage is higher near Saipan and Tinian.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Tuesday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:16 AM	5:40 PM	-
Saturday	6:17 AM	6:26 PM	-
Sunday	7:19 AM	7:15 PM	-
Monday	8:22 AM	8:07 PM	-
Tuesday	9:26 AM	9:02 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 75°
Honolulu	Windy	83° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	66° / 57°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	88° / 61°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	81° / 64°
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	67° / 47°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	70° / 61°
Paris	Sunny	73° / 55°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	72° / 63°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	79° / 55°
Salem	Showers	85° / 67°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	74° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	70° / 48°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Washington, DC	Showers	69° / 47°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:55 AM	LOW TIDE	0.39
6:47 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.96
1:07 PM	LOW TIDE	0.22
7:11 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.05

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Alleged murder victim died of heart failure

It has been determined that the alleged "murder victim" in Chalan Kanoa actually died of natural causes and an autopsy has ruled out foul play.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, the alleged murder that happened in the village of Chalan Kanoa two weeks ago is merely a rumor.

"The CNMI Department of Public Safety has been made recently aware of a social media post regarding a murderer on the loose in the village of Chalan Kanoa. This post is false and misleading," he said in a press statement last Wednesday.

A bruise found on the deceased individual's face has been determined to be not enough to have caused the person's death, according to the autopsy.

Pangelinan said that eight days following the report of the individual's death, Dr. Phillip Dauterman did the autopsy at the Commonwealth Health Center morgue. "On Tuesday, Sept. 22, DPS requested for a toxicology report through the Office of the Attorney General. After consulting with the chief prosecutor, an autopsy was suggested to rule out any foul play. The autopsy was conducted on Sept. 24. On Sept. 26, DPS officers in charge of the case met with Dr. Dauterman in regards to the findings. [He] concluded that the individual had died of natural causes due to heart failure," he said.

As for allegations that the individual's face had been beaten, the autopsy concluded that the bruise on the forehead "was not enough to be a cause of death," Pangelinan said.

On Sept. 16, at about 10:34pm, DPS received a call regarding an unresponsive individual in the village of Chalan Kanoa. Police officers who were dispatched to the scene met with the victim's son, who stated that they noticed their father lying outside their door and thought the victim was just drunk.

After realizing that the victim had no pulse, he called for emergency assistance. Police and emergency medical personnel responded to the scene. The case was handed to the Criminal Investigative Bureau for further investigation. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

JRM invests in habitat conservation in Guam

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas has awarded $2 million in support of a cooperative agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to initiate a foundational conservation alliance in support of the advancement of habitat conservation in Guam.

Funding for the agreement is made available through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program administered by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and will align with and significantly support priority conservation initiatives of the Guam Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"This is a win for Guam," said Rear Adm. John Menoni, JRM commander. "The award represents DoD's enduring commitment to protect and preserve Guam's natural resources through mutually beneficial partnerships. …It is an effort that builds upon our longstanding commitment to environmental stewardship, and it further demonstrates our dedication to our island community."

Adhering to the Sikes Act and through this REPI project, JRM will support long-term viability of natural habitats for outcomes beneficial to both the military and the greater community. The long-term effort seeks to reduce constraints to military training and capabilities by providing a landscape-scale ecological boost to important natural resources, while also assisting the Government of Guam in building capacity to manage Guam's critical forest resources. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR PORT OF SAIPAN SEAPLANE RAMP MAINTENANCE DREDGING Project No. CPA-SS-001-21

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Architectural/Engineering Design Services for design services for maintenance dredging of the north and south seaplane ramps and Echo Dock at the Saipan Harbor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project Number CPA-SS-001-21.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available upon request to CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, Ms. Wendi Prater, at wprater@cnmiports.com. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal, or faxed to (670) 234-5962. Questions should be submitted by no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 26, 2020, Chamorro Standard Time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: October 7, 2020

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-027

ISLEY WATER TANK FENCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from contractors for the replacement of the existing Isley Water Tank security fence in Isley Field, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 5, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-027 *Isley Water Tank Fence Replacement Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 27, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 9, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, at email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Yvonne Ogumoro, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer at email yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real properties will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:	006 H 07	Carmen Avenue/Bernardo Street, CK, Saipan	**MINIMUM BID:**	$80,000.00
LOT NO.:	005 I 527	Ahu Dr., Koblerville, Saipan	**MINIMUM BID:**	$60,000.00
LOT NO.:	011 G 608	Chopak Dr., Kagman III, Saipan	**MINIMUM BID:**	$59,000.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on November 10, 2020, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for purchase/lease for each property shall be as listed above.
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law(s) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the properties listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021.
5. Deposit: Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). In lieu of a deposit, NMHC will accept a document from a financial institution stating that the bidder has a pre-approved loan with the amount sufficient to cover the purchase price. The remaining balance or total purchase price amount will be due within thirty (30) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within thirty (30) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned properties will automatically revert to NMHC. Failure to make payment of the purchase price within thirty (30) calendar days will result in the termination of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned properties and will revert to NMHC.
   a. Credit card payments totaling $1,000.00 USD, or more, will be charged an additional three percent (3%) fee to recover merchant credit card service fees. This fee does not apply to "debit" card payments.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
8. Lease With Option to Purchase. NMHC shall give notice that it will also consider bids or offers to lease the property, subject to the following terms and conditions:
   a. Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be five (5) years at an interest rate of 6 percent of the amount due (bid price less deposit).
   b. A lease with option to purchase agreement will be executed upon receipt of a deposit of at least ten percent (10%) of the bid or offer price on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard) and shall include the following terms:
      i. For move-in ready properties, no alterations or improvements without the prior written consent of NMHC.
      ii. Lessee shall insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
      iii. Lessee shall be responsible for all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
      iv. Lease shall not be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of NMHC.
   c. Failure to make full payment of the bid or offer price within the specified time period will result in the forfeiture by the bidder/lessee of the deposit and all payments received and in the eventual termination of the bidder's rights, title and interest including the termination of the lease with option to purchase agreement in any of the aforementioned properties and will revert to NMHC.
   d. Failure to make a deposit within the specified time will result in the termination of any and all of the bidder's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned properties and will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 9th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, **Plaintiff,** **vs.** **DIANA M. QUITUGUA,** **Defendant.**	**Civil Action No. 10-0261** **THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 20th day of September, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **12th day of November, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.,** at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 326 R 14, (part of Lot 326 R 13, which was part of Lot 326 R 08, part Lot 316 R 02, part original Lot 316 R 01), containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 326 R 00, the original of which recorded on June 2, 1998 as Document No. 98-1643 at Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Public Sale: The action shall be open to the general public

2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) to reject any and all bids.

4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing or by email with full name and complete signature to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

5. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.

6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Bidders are to contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of September, 2020.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ. (F0197)
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff, Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, **Plaintiff,** **vs.** **ABRAHAM E. TAISACAN and LYDIA O. TAISACAN,** **Defendant.**	**Civil Action No. 13-0093** **NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Decree and Judgment for Balance After Property Sale; Writ of Execution Re Judicial Sale; and Order in Aid of Judgment (hereinafter "Decree and Writ of Execution") entered in the above-titled action on March 10, 2020, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the balance of remaining due on the judgment to the Bank of Guam from Defendants Abraham E. Taisacan and Lydia O. Taisacan. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **November 6, 2020 at 10: am, at the Bank of Guam Rota Branch,** Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands premises and real properties, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said Decree and Writ of Execution, to wit:

1. Tract Parcel No. 22055-3, Rota, containing an area of 794 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3022/89, the original of which was recorded 26 May 1989 under File No. 89-1659 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.
2. Lot No. 002 R 03, Rota, containing an aera of 537 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 R 00, the original of which was registered 12 November 1971 as Document No. 1289 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale:

1. Public Sale: The action shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conduction the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the properties listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such properties are accepted;
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for all of the properties listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the properties. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: (670) 234-7859; Fax: (670) 234-5749; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com. Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card, or other legally acceptable form of identification. A written bid shall include the bidder's signature, with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information.
5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days from the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to the Bank of Guam.
6. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the properties are being sold **"AS IS"** and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real properties will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the mortgaged property to be sold at auction is available upon request. If necessary, a copy of the appraisal report will be provided to the Bank of Guam Manager for Rota, for on-island bidders.

Dated this 28th day of August 2020.

/s/
ROBERT T. TORRES, F0197
Auctioneer

Japan military training vessel visits Saipan

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force training vessel *Kashima* dropped anchor on Saipan last Wednesday, Oct. 14, and will be at the Saipan port until today, Oct. 16. This is the first time that the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force vessel has visited Saipan.

According to a statement from the Consular Office of Japan on Saipan, the purpose of *Kashima*'s visit is to train and provide experience to new officers by disembarking on an overseas mission and that *Kashima* had just come from Nome and Anchorage in Alaska, and Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and is on Saipan for the purpose of resupply and refueling.

Ship activities has been limited due to the current situation with COVID-19 pandemic but the Consular Office of Japan on Saipan, the Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Japan Saipan Travel Association, the Saipan Awaodori Team and Traditional Carolinian and Chamorro dancers have hosted a welcoming ceremony at Charlie Dock for the vessel.

According to the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez, the military ship's personnel are not able to step foot on the island due to the COVID-19 protocols that are in place, which means that they would need to go through quarantine and testing if they disembark from the ship. Additionally, inspection is at its highest level due to COVID-19 so no one gets off the ship unless they have gone through COVID-19 protocols, Villagomez stated.

Villagomez said that the ship did go through an entry point clearance, which means that the ship provided documentation that will allow them to get cleared by the Commonwealth Port Authority, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., CHCC's Environmental Health Disease Prevention, and the task force.

The last time that the CNMI had a ship dock at the Port of Saipan in Puerto Rico was the cruise ship, *Costa Atlantica*, last Jan. 3. The pre-COVID-19 era allowed passengers to get down and tour around the island. The guest on the *Costa Atlantica* got to swim at Micro Beach in Garapan, jog around American Memorial Park in Garapan, and shop while the ship restocked on supplies and refueled. ***(Justine Nauta)***

MANGO
Marianas Alliance of Non-governmental Organizations

MANGO Lemmai-Mei Nonprofit Incubator

Local Native nonprofit organizations will effectively operate projects that address barriers to prosperity that impact the Chamorro and Carolinian community members.

Are you interested in helping grow non-profit businesses? Do you want to see non-governmental community programs strengthened? Can you imagine the power of unity among all CNMI nonprofit organizations? Just as the lemmai or mei (breadfruit) provides for our sustenance of life so does MANGO look forward towards empowering our nonprofit community. If you are passionate about community development and have an entrepreneurial spirit, then this might just be the job you've been dreaming about but thought too good to be true!

Requirements – A passion for our mission and an entrepreneurial spirit. Must be service oriented and have a good attitude along with a strong desire to help others learn. Excellent communications skills, superb organizational skills, self-motivation, and ability to lead others. You are not asking what to do next but devising ways to accomplish the project goals in a manner that the steering committee can approve of easily. Preference given to individuals who are fluent in Chamorro and/or Carolinian languages and those willing to commit the full 36-months of this ANA grant-funded project.

Project Director – One full-time position. The successful candidate will have a strong finance background, with a degree in accounting, nonprofit or business management, or relevant four years of experience. You have experience starting a business or a project from the ground up. Your job will be overseeing, executing, and managing the project as well as recruiting and engaging membership and vetting Lemmai-Mei project participants. You will know the importance of deadlines and compliance but manage with kindness and encouragement. You will have a passionate, mentoring spirit. The Project Director reports to the Executive Director and works in collaboration with the Training Director and the Project Controller.

Program Assistant - One part-time position. The successful candidate will have at least two years administrative work experience and high school diploma. You will be customer service oriented with strong communication skills and have experience with bookkeeping and data entry. Your job will require that you are flexible, self-motivated and good-humored. You will be eager to assist with anything and everything that gets the work plan done. The Program Assistant reports to the Project Director and the Training Director.

Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations (MANGO) is a CNMI tax-exempt nonprofit organization. If you are interested in applying, please send an email to info@mangocnmi.org with the subject line "Jobs". Indicate which position you are interested in and why and attach your resume. Please include three references and their contact info.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-21

PROVIDE AND INSTALL BRAND NEW SEAWATER FIREFIGHTING PUMPMOTOR/CONTROLLER SYSTEM

AMENDED

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals (RFP), and other contract provisions, for proposals to provide and install a new seawater firefighting pump/motor assembly at the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225(a)).

All works shall take place at the Port of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposal package is available for pick-up beginning October 01, 2020, at the Executive Director's Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The proposer shall guarantee that all contents of their proposal be valid for a period of 60 days from the due date of proposals.

A Site Visit is encouraged in order for proposers to familiarize themselves of the type of equipment needed and to ensure that the project surrounding does not inconvenient the project requirement. Proposers are requested to contact Mr. Rodney James Taisacan at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3552 during working hours from Tuesday to Friday (Monday is austerity day).

Questions and/or clarification regarding this RFP shall be directed to: Alex C. Tudela, Procurement Officer by written notice or email at atudela@cpa.gov.mp before 2:00 p.m. November 13, 2020. All responses shall be in the form of written addenda which will be a requirement in the RFP submission.

Proposers are to submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of their proposal to the Office of the Executive Director no later than 4:00 P.M. (CHST) November 27, 2020.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects of said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Automotive Service Technician and Mechanic
Hours: Full-Time
Company: Yaong Corporation
Location: Unit 6 Rem Center, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

Duties and Responsibilities:
Examine vehicles to determine extent of damage or malfunctions. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Perform routine and scheduled maintenance services such as oil changes, lubrication, and tune-ups. Ensure all important parts are examined, including belts, hoses, steering systems, spark plugs, brake and fuel systems, wheel bearings, and other potentially troublesome areas. Repair and service air conditioning, heating, engine cooling, and electrical systems. Disassemble units and inspect parts for wear. Replace parts such as pistons, rods, gears, valves, and bearings. Repair manual and automatic transmissions. Install and repair accessories such as mirrors and windshield wipers. Repair or replace shock absorbers. Replace or adjust headlights. Overhaul or replace carburetors, blowers, generators, distributors, starters, and pumps. Repair radiator leaks. Align vehicles' front ends.

Qualification Requirements:
High school graduate plus six months training as Automotive Service Technician or Mechanic. Two years work related experience required. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their uses, repair, and maintenance. Ability to use acetylene/cutting torches, dial calipers, drill/punch presses, hand-held diagnostic computers, and bleeder/flare nut/pump/slug wrenches. Must be able to diagnose gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly. Job requires being honest, ethical, reliable, responsible, and dependable

To apply:
Please send complete and detailed resume to: Yaong Corporation Unit 6 Rem Ctr. Cheribiyan Dr Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to P.O. Box 505946, Saipan, MP 96950, or by e-mail to yaong.hr2@gmail.com. Background check may be required prior to employment

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Computer User Support Specialist
Hours: Full-Time
Company: Yaong Corporation
Location: Unit 6 Rem Center, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

Duties and Responsibilities:
Monitor the daily performance of the company's computer systems. Setup and install computer equipment for employee use, ensuring hardware, software & peripherals are working properly. Assess the employee's work area for needed space for the computer equipment & peripheral as well as ensure necessary resources such as cables, power outlet, surge protection, power backups are installed and functioning properly. Educate and train employees on the proper use of computer hardware and software and peripherals. Answer employee questions regarding computer software or hardware. Troubleshoot computer hardware or software if the answers do not solve the employee's computer problems. Troubleshooting includes conferring with the employee, performing diagnostic testing, consulting technical manuals or websites to resolve the computer hardware or software problem. Perform minor repairs; refer major hardware, peripheral equipment, or software problems to vendor or service center for service. Coordinate with vendor for pick-up / delivery of hardware/equipment and testing that it is working properly upon return from the vendor or from service center. Periodically evaluate if the company's computers, hardware, software, peripherals are working effectively or if they need replacement or upgrade. Modify and/or customize programs for internal needs.

Qualification Requirements:
High school graduate with minimum 4 years work related experience in Computer Support Services. Knowledge of basic principles and practices of office administration, communications, and customer support service etiquette. Knowledge of personal computer hardware and software installation, repair, testing and troubleshooting. Knowledge of Microsoft based products, installation and operation. Skills in installing, maintaining, repairing and problem-diagnosing computer hardware and software applications. Skills in managing own time. Skills in using personal computer hardware and Microsoft programs. Ability to communicate clearly, concisely and accurately with all levels of staff users, both verbally, over the phone and in person, and in writing. Ability to make logical and sound decisions in the resolution of technically challenging situations; translate user needs into technical solutions.

To apply:
Please send complete and detailed resume to: Yaong Corporation Unit 6 Rem Ctr. Cheribiyan Dr Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to P.O. Box 505946, Saipan, MP 96950, or by e-mail to yaong.hr2@gmail.com. Background check may be required prior to employment.

MCS seniors are determined to finish strong

Members of Mount Carmel School's graduating Class of 2021 are determined to finish their high school career strong and secure their plans after graduation.

This year's graduating class is composed of 40 seniors, many of whom have attended Mount Carmel School for more than four years. Among the graduates, a majority of students intend to pursue a college degree from a four-year university off-island or will start smart at Northern Marianas College. The remaining seniors have plans to enlist into the U.S. military or enter the CNMI workforce.

"Despite the pandemic, I'm hopeful that by next year many colleges and universities will figure out safe ways to hold classes and house students on college campuses" said MCS senior Trinity Cruz. "I'm very determined because my goal is to become a physician assistant and ultimately bring my professional experience back to the CNMI."

As part of her college list, Gia Hemly intends to start at Northern Marianas College. "I plan on attending NMC for one to two years and then transfer to Temple University in Japan. I know myself well enough to acknowledge that adjusting to college life, especially during a pandemic, will be a challenge. After researching more about NMC, I was happy to find that many of NMC's credits can transfer to Temple University, so I look forward to saving money in that way too."

MCS senior Kody Foreman intends to enlist in the U.S. military after graduation. "Growing up, I've always admired the men and women in the armed forces. To me, it's a very honorable act of service that I hope to also be a part of. Plus, I know there are also a wide range of career opportunities in the military that can be an option for me. "

"Our entire team is extremely proud of our students," saied MCS principal Frances Taimanao. "Adjusting to online learning platforms is a challenge for everyone, but our students have been doing their best to stay focused on their studies. Our team is focused on finding new scheduling options that can increase face-to-face classes while abiding by the guidelines provided by the COVID-19 Task Force."

MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, expressed pride for MCS students for their resilience and appreciation for the support of their parents to help their children succeed. "During this pandemic, we know that behind every committed student is a devoted parent who ensures that their child keeps up with their studies. We strive to honor that effort by prioritizing continuous improvement to our systems and procedures and finding safe ways to engage." ***(PR)***

Mount Carmel School seniors take a break during face-to-face classes.
MCS

D&Q International Distributors
A TanHoldings Company

D&Q CO. LTD.

An international wholesale distribution company based in Guam, is seeking personable and professional applicant for the following position.

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

Our Guam office is looking for a high-performing Regional Sales Manager. The successful candidate will help develop and meet our revenue and profit growth objectives. Responsibilities include developing key growth sales strategies, tactics, and action plans. Successful execution of these strategies is required to achieve your financial targets. Duties will include hitting annual targets, building relationships and understanding customer/market trends. The position is responsible to meet our vendor, customer acquisition and revenue growth targets by keeping our company competitive and innovative.

Responsibilities

- Develop a Business Plan, establish Sales Targets and Selling Strategies that expands company's customer base and ensure its strong presence.
- Coordinate with Sales Operations and Finance to ensure timely rebate and commission payouts are established and executed.
- Negotiate and formulate rebate structures and supply agreements on an ongoing basis.
- Collaborate with territorial sales managers to plan and develop effective sales strategies and also set goals and targets, in order to promote strong, long-lasting customer and vendor relationships.
- Manage territorial sales managers for performance using KPIs, KBMs and hold formal business reviews.
- Keep Management and leadership advised of market trends and competitor activities.
- Collaborate with management to plan and develop effective sales strategies and to also set goals and targets.
- Proposes and negotiates innovative business deals/agreements with new and existing vendors & key customers.
- Partner with Marketing leadership to build overall growth strategy.
- Prepare & provide various sales and management presentation and reports
- Prepares annual budgets, selling strategies, establishes industry channel targets, business financial planning and forecasting.

Requirements

- Must have minimum 5 years sales management experience in same or comparable industry.
- Level of direction is limited, self-starter.
- Strong Leadership skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Computer literate. Proficiency in Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint, and Word is required.
- Detail oriented with good organizational skills.
- Ideal candidate must have a reliable vehicle and able to travel as required.

D&Q Co. Ltd. is a manufacturer's representative and wholesale distribution company that offers its employees a comprehensive benefits package including paid holiday and vacation leave, bonus program, medical, dental, 401K plan and disability coverage plus optional life insurance.

In light of COVD-19 pandemic crisis, we ask that you send your resume to Attn: Human Resources mmiclat@dandq-international.com & dataclerk@dandq-international.com, or Employment Application Form is available for pickup. Please call us at (671) 649-2706. We are located on Pick-A-Nail Road, 267 Guerrero Drive, Tamuning (behind Atkins Kroll, before FedEx).

D&Q Co. Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Governor

Public Assistance Office

DR-4235 | DR-4396 | DR-4404

INVITATION FOR BID
ITB21-PAO-001

Public Assistance Office Tenant Improvement

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Office of the Governor are soliciting sealed bids for the **Public Assistance Office Tenant Improvement,** 3rd floor MH II Building Marina Heights Business Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available **October 09, 2020** at the Public Assistance Office located at the 1st floor MH I Building Marina Heights Business Park, Saipan. A $100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be present when obtaining a project package. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit for this project on **October 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m,. ChST** at the proposed site, 3rd floor MH II Building Marina Heights Business Park Suite 303, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Patrick Guerrero, Public Assistance Officer, in writing on or before **October 20, 2020** to the Public Assistance Office, 1st floor MH I Building Marina Heights Business Park, Saipan, or email to: info@pa.gov.mp. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked *ITB21-PAO-001* for the **Public Assistance Office Tenant Improvement.** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:00 a.m, ChST October 26, 2020.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting **the Notice of Intent Form that is provided in this ITB.** Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 a.m, ChST November 05, 2020.** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. Note that failure to submit this required Notice of Intent document will be cause for a rejection of bid. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later **October 26, 2020** and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services at P.O. Box 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950 and the bid documents must be received no later than **November 5, 2020.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Procurement Services located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at ***10:00 a.m. ChST November 6, 2020.*** However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at ***9:30 a.m., ChST October 26, 2020.***

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is forty-five **(45) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by one hundred and twenty calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

Business

PHI Pharmacy adds 2 more to free Supplement Program

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PHI Pharmacy staff Claudine Atalig and Edward Blas hold up the new additions to their free Supplement Program.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

PHI Pharmacy now carries a full line of free vitamins after making available Century Adult and Century Mature to CNMI residents for free recently. It previously introduced children's and prenatal vitamins for free to the public.

"We've been offering free multivitamins for children and prenatal vitamins for women. Now, we're excited to introduce the last two free multivitamins in our Supplement Program. The Century Adult vitamin is a general adult vitamin for any adult and the Century Mature vitamin is our 50+ formulation for those who are 50 years of age or older (man'amko)," said PHI Pharmacy general manager Joshua Wise.

The Century Adult vitamin is a "great vitamin" for any general adult, men or women, 49 years of age and younger. This vitamin can be used in older children/teenagers (13 years and older) if they are comfortable swallowing tablets, according to Wise.

The Mature vitamin, meanwhile, is geared more toward those who are 50 years and above with a formulation that emphasizes people's specific needs as they get older.

Wise said it's easy to enroll in PHI Pharmacy's Supplement Program as you just need to drive down to any of their three branches on Saipan and staff are ready to assist you.

"We only ask for the name and birthday of the person needing vitamins so we can log what we gave you a punch card. If you do not have a file with us, we will create one for you. Identification is not required. Just bring your punch card back every month and get your free vitamins. Our Supplement Program aims to be able to provide basic multivitamins to help improve nutritional requirements and this program is available to everyone regardless of citizenship," he said.

PHI Pharmacy's branch in Garapan. MARK RABAGO

PHI Pharmacy's two other free multivitamins have been out for a while now. The children's vitamins are for children between the ages of 2-12 years of age. Children 2-4 years of age will take one vitamin tablet daily while children 5-12 years of age will take two vitamin tablets daily. Prenatal vitamins are a nutritional supplement to use prior to conception, during pregnancy, and for postnatal (lactating and non-lactating women).

Visit PHI Pharmacy's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/phipharmacy for the latest information on sales and health information. You can also call PHI Pharmacy Kagman at 256-0131, PHI Pharmacy Dandan at 235-6170, or PHI Pharmacy Garapan at 323-5000.

PHI Pharmacy Kagman is located at the Kagman Commercial Building and open Monday through Friday, 8am-6pm. PHI Pharmacy Dandan at the Joeten Dandan Building is open Monday through Friday, 8am-6pm and Saturday/Sunday, 8am-4pm. PHI Pharmacy Garapan at the BRI Building, Suite 105 is open Monday through Friday, 8am-6pm, and Saturday from 8am-1pm.

Nation

Barrett deflects senators' climate change questions

Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett refused to say whether she accepts the science of climate change, saying she lacks the expertise to know for sure and calling it a topic too controversial to get into.

On Wednesday, pressed at her confirmation hearing by Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris of California, Barrett framed acknowledgment of manmade climate change as a matter of policy, not science.

Barrett said Harris, the Democrats' vice presidential nominee as well as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, was trying to get her to state an opinion "on a very contentious matter of public debate, and I will not do that."

Barrett was responding to a series of questions from Harris, including whether she thinks the novel coronavirus is infectious, whether smoking causes cancer and whether "climate change is happening and it's threatening the air we breathe and the water we drink."

The federal appeals court judge responded that she does think coronavirus is infectious and smoking causes cancer. She rebuffed Harris on the climate change question, however, for seeking to "solicit an opinion" on a "matter of public policy, especially one that is politically controversial."

The exchange occurred during the committee's hearing on Barrett's nomination to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court.

Scientists say climate change is a matter of established fact and that the damage is mostly caused by people burning oil, gas and coal. Climate experts, including federal scientists in the Trump administration, say increasingly fierce wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters point to the urgency of global warming.

Acknowledging and dealing with climate change are politically laden issues. President Donald Trump, an ardent booster of the coal, oil and and gas industries, routinely questions and mocks the science of climate change, while Democratic rival Joe Biden is proposing an ambitious $2 trillion plan to wean Americans off fossil fuels to slow global warming.

The Trump administration has rolled back major Obama-era efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions from cars and trucks and power plants. Many of the administration's environmental and public health rollbacks are likely to wind up before the Supreme Court.

On Tuesday, Sen. John Kennedy, a Louisiana Republican and another member of the committee considering Barrett's Supreme Court confirmation, also asked Barrett what she thinks about a series of issues, including climate change.

"I've read about climate change," Barrett answered.

"And you have some opinions on climate change that you've thought about?" Kennedy asked.

"I'm certainly not a scientist," Barrett replied, using a frequent refrain of more conservative Republicans on the matter. "I would not say that I have firm views on it,"

On Twitter, climate experts and members of past administrations rebuked Barrett for demurring. ***(AP)***

Dueling town halls for Trump, Biden after debate plan nixed

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden will compete for TV audiences in dueling town hall meetings instead of meeting face-to-face for their second debate as originally planned.

The two will take questions in different cities on different networks Thursday night: Trump on NBC from Miami, Biden on ABC from Philadelphia. Trump backed out of plans for the presidential faceoff originally scheduled for the evening after debate organizers shifted the format to a virtual event following Trump's coronavirus diagnosis.

As the pace of the campaign speeds up in its final weeks, the two candidates first are taking care of other electoral necessities Thursday: Trump has a midday rally in battleground North Carolina and Biden is raising campaign cash at a virtual event.

Trump has also been trying to shore up support from constituencies that not so long ago he thought he had in the bag: big business and voters in the red state of Iowa.

In a Wednesday morning address to business leaders, he expressed puzzlement that they would even consider supporting Biden, arguing that his own leadership was a better bet for a strong economy. Later, the president held his third campaign rally in three nights, this time in Iowa, a state he won handily in 2016 but where Biden is making a late push.

Trump claimed to be leading in the most recent Iowa poll he saw. "For me to only be up six, I'm a little bit concerned," he asserted. Multiple polls have shown a much closer race.

Biden, for his part, held a virtual fundraiser from Wilmington, Delaware, and used his appearance to say that Trump was trying to rush through Amy Coney Barrett, his nominee for the Supreme Court, to help his efforts to repeal the Obama health care law, calling that "an abuse of power."

Trump used his economic address Wednesday to play up his administration's commitment to lowering taxes and deregulation of industry, and he didn't hide his frustration with signs that some in the business community are tilting to Biden.

"I know I'm speaking to some Democrats, and some of you are friends of mine," Trump said in a virtual address to the Economic Clubs of New York, Florida, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Pittsburgh and Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Should Biden be elected, he continued, "you will see things happen that will not make you happy. I don't understand your thinking."

The former vice president has collected more than $50 million in campaign contributions from donors in the securities and investment sectors, according to the private nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. During his decades in the Senate representing Delaware, a center for the credit card and banking industries, Biden built relationships and a voting record in the business sector that has raised suspicion on the left but provides Wall Street with a measure of ease at the prospect of a Biden administration.

Asia

India reports 63K new cases

NEW DELHI (AP)—India has confirmed more than 63,000 new cases of the coronavirus, an increase of over 8,000 from the previous day but still far fewer than it was reporting a month ago, when the virus was at its peak in the country.

The Health Ministry reported 63,509 new cases on Wednesday, raising India's total to more than 7.2 million, second in the world behind the U.S. The ministry also reported 730 fatalities in the past 24 hours, raising the death toll to 110,586. The country was seeing more than 1,000 deaths per day last month.

According to the Health Ministry, India's average number of daily cases dropped to 72,576 last week from 92,830 during the week of Sept. 9-15, when the virus peaked. Over the last month, the country has been seeing a trend of declining cases on a week-to-week basis.

On Tuesday, India registered 55,342 new cases, its lowest single-day tally since mid-August.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ China says it has carried out more than 4.2 million tests in the northern port city of Qingdao, with no new cases of the coronavirus among the almost 2 million results received. The city has reported a total of 12 cases, six with symptoms and six without, since the new outbreak was first spotted over the weekend at a hospital. China on Wednesday reported 27 new cases, including 13 of local transmission and 14 brought from outside the country. The local cases included seven that had been shifted to confirmed from asymptomatic. It wasn't immediately clear whether any of those involved cases reported in Qingdao. China has reported a total of 4,634 deaths among 85,611 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

AP

Farzana Manzoor, a health worker takes a nasal swab sample of a man to test for COVID-19 in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020.

N. Korea's Kim visit typhoon-hit area, warns of 'defeatism'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited a typhoon-ravaged rural town and lambasted government agencies for "defeatism," state media reported Wednesday.

In his first public activity after massive weekend celebrations marking the ruling party's founding anniversary, Kim inspected recovery works at the northeastern Komdok area, continuing recent visits to regions hit by typhoons and flooding this summer. Outside observers say Kim aims to boost public support as the disasters could likely aggravate North Korea's economy under U.S.-led sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic.

The Korean Central News Agency cited Kim as saying that Komdok's typhoon-related damage was "more severe than he thought" and praised soldiers mobilized in rehabilitation projects for their devotion.

KCNA said Komdok's damage was the worst among typhoon-hit areas. It said military units ordered by Kim had completed over 60% of construction of 2,300 dwellings.

KCNA photos showed Kim, clad in Mao suits, walking on an old railway track accompanied by officials, with buildings under construction seen in the distance. Other photos showed Kim speaking near small gray houses as officials and military officers took note of his comments.

In the past, when natural disasters hit North Korea, KCNA has often dispatched photos, sometimes doctored, of vivid scenes of damage, in an apparent effort to win foreign aid. But Kim said in August he won't accept any outside assistance this year to maintain stringent border closures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Kim's government has argued it hasn't reported a single virus case, something foreign experts are highly skeptical of.

At Komdok, Kim said that there were still houses built more than 50 years ago and that his government "didn't know properly the life of the people living in so piteous environments and dwellings."

According to KCNA, he said "we have to seriously self-reproach ourselves."

Kim said the army will be in charge of building new houses and turn the Komdok area a world-class mining town under a long-term development plan. He criticized national planning institutions that he said had become "very calculating ... caught in defeatism and making a great fuss when the target worthy of the political attention of the country is set," KCNA said.

In recent months, Kim has increasingly displayed candor in admitting policy failures and problems in his government, an unusual move in a country where his family is the subject of intense personality cult among its 25 million people. Some experts say this shows the severity of the economic difficulties Kim is facing.

Kim said in September that the overall anti-disaster condition in coastal areas is "poor" and that sea dikes were "not properly built." Earlier, he said his country lacks modern medical facilities, and also acknowledged his economic development plans hadn't been successful.

World

Russian diplomat doubts extension of nuclear pact

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's top diplomat voiced doubt Wednesday that Moscow and Washington could negotiate an extension of their last arms control pact still standing, even as the United States offered a more optimistic view.

Speaking in an interview with several Russian news outlets, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Russia can't accept the conditions put forward by the United States for the extension of the New START treaty.

"I personally don't see the prospect," Lavrov snapped when asked if the extension is possible before the pact expires in February. "We will never say that we will shut the door and cut all contacts. But we explain that it's impossible to talk on the basis of an ultimatum they put forward that fully ignores the principles which were acknowledged as the basis for all our agreements for decades."

Lavrov's pessimistic view contrasted with the statements from U.S. diplomats, who said that Moscow and Washington were close to a deal.

"We would welcome the opportunity to complete an agreement based on understandings that were achieved over the last couple weeks about what the range of possibilities look like for an extension of New START and an outcome that benefits the entire world, increased stability of the most dangerous weapons in the world," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday.

Pompeo said that "I am hopeful that the Russians will find a way to agree to an outcome that, frankly, I think is in their best interest and in our best interest," voicing hope that China will eventually join the talks too.

A person familiar with the talks told The Associated Press Friday that U.S. and Russian negotiators have agreed in principle to continue freezing their nuclear warhead stockpiles in a bid to salvage the New START. The person, who was not authorized to discuss the negotiations publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said it's not yet clear if the agreement for a freeze will succeed or translate into an extension of the pact.

If it works, the person said an agreement could be announced before the Nov. 3 presidential election with an eye toward extending the accord and eventually bringing China into it, a longtime demand by President Donald Trump's administration.

The New START treaty was signed in 2010 by U.S. President Barack Obama and then Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The pact limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers, and envisages sweeping on-site inspections to verify compliance.

After both Moscow and Washington withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty last year, the New START is the only remaining nuclear arms control deal between the two countries.

Russia has offered its extension without any conditions, while the Trump administration has pushed for a new arms control agreement that would also include China. Moscow has described that idea as unfeasible, pointing at Beijing's refusal to negotiate any deal that would reduce its much smaller nuclear arsenal.

Kyrgyzstan president faces pressure to resign amid turmoil

MOSCOW (AP)—Kyrgyzstan's embattled president on Wednesday dismissed a call to step down, saying he would stay on the job until the political situation in the Central Asian country stabilizes after a disputed parliamentary election.

President Sooronbai Jeenbekov held talks with Prime Minister Sadyr Zhaparov hours after he endorsed his appointment by parliament. Zhaparov, a former lawmaker who was freed from jail by demonstrators protesting the Oct. 4 parliamentary election results, has demanded Jeenbekov's resignation.

Jeenbekov insisted that stepping down now could trigger "unpredictable developments to the detriment of the state," his office said. It emphasized that he will only agree to resign after "he takes the country back into the legal field, after holding parliamentary and calling presidential elections."

About 1,000 Zhaparov supporters rallied on the central square of the capital of Bishkek despite a ban on demonstrations amid a state of emergency introduced by Jeenbekov. The crowd chanted for the president to "Go away!" and dispersed late in the evening to respect a curfew but vowed to return Thursday.

Zhaparov said he will meet again with Jeenbekov on Thursday to persuade him to step down.

The parliament nominated Zhaparov on Wednesday after Jeenbekov refused to endorse his appointment Saturday by lawmakers who met without a quorum. The president quickly approved Zhaparov for the job on Wednesday.

Kyrgyzstan, a country of 6.5 million people located on the border with China, was plunged into chaos following the Oct. 4 vote that was swept by pro-government parties. The opposition said the election was tainted by vote-buying and other irregularities.

Protesters then took over government buildings, looting some offices, and the Central Election Commission nullified the election. Jeenbekov kept a low profile in the first few days after the vote, using the infighting among protest leaders to dig in. He introduced a state of emergency in the capital that was endorsed Tuesday by parliament.

Authorities deployed troops to Bishkek over the weekend and introduced the curfew. The move eased tensions in the city, where residents feared looting that accompanied previous uprisings and began forming vigilante groups to protect property. Stores and banks that were closed last week have reopened.

The turmoil marks the third time in 15 years that demonstrators have moved to oust a government in Kyrgyzstan, one of the poorest nations to emerge from the former Soviet Union.

As in the uprisings that ousted presidents in 2005 and 2010, the current protests have been driven by clan rivalries that shape the country's politics.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Rose Marie Sonis Pangelinan Camacho

Born on November 07, 1972
Entered the Gates of Heaven on October 08, 2020

She will forever remain in the hearts of her

Mother and Step Father: Rosa Sonis & Angken Xymoon
of Chuuk Micronesia

Husband: Anthony Atalig Camacho

Children: Angelo A. & Jazmin L. Camacho
(Nevaeh Rosa and Alayah Victoria)
Raegine Agnes-Rose A. Camacho
Sebastian David-Anthony A. Camacho
Spencer Jon Pangelinan Palacios
Charisse Pangelinan Camacho

Father-In-Law and Wife: David Tudela Camacho & Siriwan

Siblings and In-Laws (and families):
Gilbert Tainatongo; John S. & Merced B. Pangelinan; Sinforosa T. & Pedro Kaipat; Alexander S. & Joanita S. Pangelinan; Joseph S. Pangelinan & Sylvia Edgar; Yvonne P. & Chrispino Houmwarek; Ceasar & Kabina Pangelinan; S-Chok Pangelinan

Brothers and Sisters In-Law (and families):
Joseph A. Camacho & Lydia Barcinas; Juan A. & Patricia B. Camacho; Dolores C. & Juan Aguon; Francisca A. Camacho; Henry A. & Bridgette DLG. Camacho; Serafin A. & Lillian C. Camacho; Edward A. & Lourdes M. Camacho; David Jr. A. & Effie S. Camacho; Miguel A. & Charlotte DLG. Camacho; Vicente A. Camacho & Elaine Santos

She will also be missed by her numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren, relatives & friends.

As she enters the gates of heaven she is welcomed by her

Father: †Juan San Nicolas Pangelinan
Mother-In-Law: †Rosa Atalig Camacho
Grandparents and In-Laws:
†Jose Wilson Pangelinan (Obo); †Maria San Nicolas Pangelinan; †Melio Meippen & †Osa Ramaram & †Ines Sonis; †Sebastian Taimanao & †Dolores Tudela Camacho; Serafin Mendiola & †Rosario Manglona Atalig
Siblings and In-Law:
†Ana Ramona Pangelinan Tainatongo; †Leo S. & †Susana Rose C. Pangelinan; †Paul Sonis Pangelinan

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words, missed beyond measure.

Nightly mass of intention is offered at Nuestra Senora Bithen delos Santa Remedios at 6:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 7:00 am on Sunday.
Our Beloved Rose Marie will be with us on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 beginning 9:00 am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral Church for responso service followed by public visitation. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by the Rite of Committal at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid peacefully with her father.

Your words of comfort, love and prayers during this difficult time are greatly appreciated.

Anthony Atalig Camacho, Children and Family

The Sonis Pangelinan Family

Off The Wall

Large Chinese mitten crab crawls into German woman's home

BERLIN (AP) — Police in southern Germany say a woman got a shock while airing out her home when a 25-centimeter (10-inch) Chinese mitten crab scurried in from the terrace through the open door.

Freiburg police said Thursday that they received a call reporting the unwanted home invader in the nearby town of Unterlauchringen, near the Swiss border, the previous morning.

Before they arrived, police say, the woman captured the crustacean by putting an upside-down garbage can on top of it.Officers were able to put the crab into a container and then take it to a local veterinary clinic.

The invasive species, native to Asia, is now found in many rivers in Germany, and the woman's residence was not far from the Rhine, though the Chinese mitten crab has never been reported in the area before. They're not considered dangerous.

AP

This handout photo provided by the Police Headquarters Freiburg in Freiburg, Germany, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020 shows a Chinese mitten crab that was caught by a police officer in an apartment in Freiburg.

UK sheep farmer is jailed for contaminated baby food plot

LONDON (AP)—A sheep farmer was sentenced to 14 years in prison Monday for his plot to use baby food laced with metal shards to blackmail one of Britain's biggest supermarket chains.

Nigel Wright planted jars of the contaminated baby food in Tesco grocery stores and sent dozens of letters and emails to the supermarket company in a bid to extort 1.4 million pounds ($1.8 million) in bitcoin between 2018 and February.

Tesco had to issue a product recall after two mothers reported discovering pieces of metal in jars of Heinz baby food. No babies were harmed but in all, 42,000 jars of Heinz baby food were recovered.

Wright, 45, was accused of orchestrating the plot, allegedly in the name of a group of farmers angry at the low price they were paid for their milk. He denied the charges, but was convicted of two counts of contaminating goods and three counts of blackmail.

Sentencing him, Justice Mark Warby compared wright's actions to terrorism and said he was remorseless.

"You chose to use threats of a particularly blood-curdling nature, deliberately designed to exploit the vulnerability of children, and the consequent vulnerability of a supermarket concerned for its business," the judge said.

A rare 1794 silver dollar goes unsold at auction in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A 1794 silver dollar believed to be among the first ever minted in the U.S., and the most valuable, went unsold during a public auction in Las Vegas.

Legend Auctions chief executive Matthew Bell said offers for the coin dubbed the Flowing Hair Silver Dollar didn't reach a minimum bid and Las Vegas resident Bruce Morelan retained ownership.

Morelan sold 12 rare coins during the Thursday event at the Bellagio resort, reaping almost $4 million.

Coin collecting experts had thought the Flowing Hair coin could sell for more than the $10 million Morelan spent to buy it in 2013.

The coin features images of Lady Liberty ringed with stars on the front and an eagle on the back. A different Lady Liberty image was adopted for silver dollars beginning in 1795.

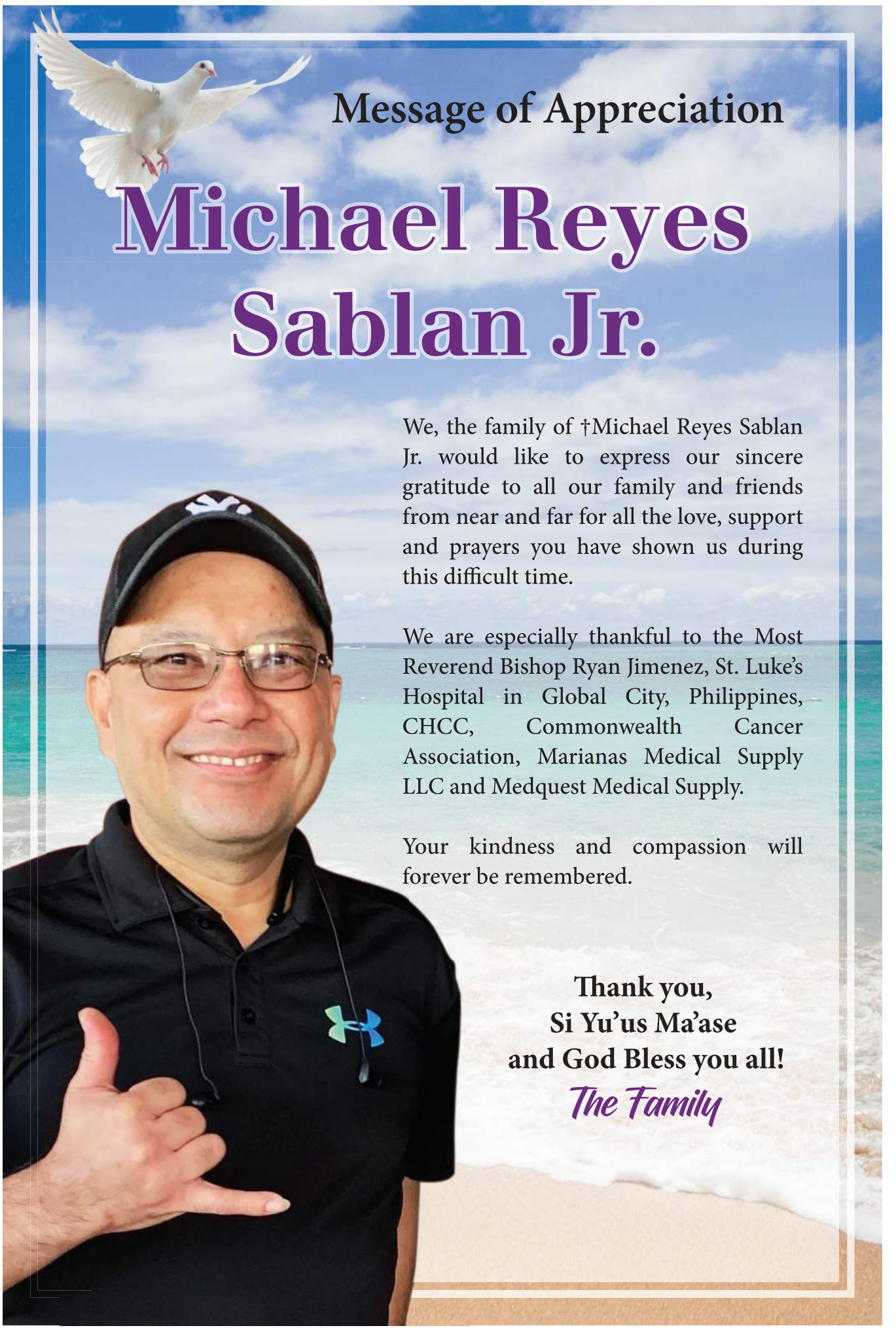
Experts say the coin is one of perhaps 300 original silver dollars that still exist among 1,758 struck in one day at the first U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

It has been certified as authentic and its previous sale eclipsed the $7.59 million that a collector paid in 2002 for a 1933 $20 U.S. gold double-eagle coin.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Email error: Law school dean sends private bar exam results

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—The dean of South Carolina's largest law school is apologizing for forwarding an email that contained the names of students who failed the exam to become a lawyer and the confidential bar exam grades of every student. University of South Carolina School of Law Dean William Hubbard said he was so excited last week when he got the official email that 82% of his students passed that he forwarded it without noticing the attachments that were supposed to remain private. "It was totally an accident, an accident I deeply regret," Hubbard told The State newspaper. "I've sent a personal email to every one of those students, and I've had an email dialogue with some of them and some phone conversations and plan to make myself available to any student who wants to meet." Names of students who fail the bar exam are supposed to never be published and scores for those who passed are not revealed. Hubbard said he thought he was just forwarding a letter with the overall results for the school. Hubbard took over as dean of the law school in August. He was once on the university's Board of Trustees and is a former president of the American Bar Association.


Message of Appreciation
Michael Reyes Sablan Jr.
We, the family of †Michael Reyes Sablan Jr. would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our family and friends from near and far for all the love, support and prayers you have shown us during this difficult time.
We are especially thankful to the Most Reverend Bishop Ryan Jimenez, St. Luke's Hospital in Global City, Philippines, CHCC, Commonwealth Cancer Association, Marianas Medical Supply LLC and Medquest Medical Supply.
Your kindness and compassion will forever be remembered.
Thank you,
Si Yu'us Ma'ase
and God Bless you all!
The Family

Science & Technology

TECH BYTES

Fake asteroid? NASA expert IDs mystery object as old rocket

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The jig may be up for an "asteroid" that's expected to get nabbed by Earth's gravity and become a mini moon next month. Instead of a cosmic rock, the newly discovered object appears to be an old rocket from a failed moon-landing mission 54 years ago that's finally making its way back home, according to NASA's leading asteroid expert. Observations should help nail its identity. "I'm pretty jazzed about this," Paul Chodas told The Associated Press. "It's been a hobby of mine to find one of these and draw such a link, and I've been doing it for decades now." Chodas speculates that asteroid 2020 SO, as it is formally known, is actually the Centaur upper rocket stage that successfully propelled NASA's Surveyor 2 lander to the moon in 1966 before it was discarded. The lander ended up crashing into the moon after one of its thrusters failed to ignite on the way there. The rocket, meanwhile, swept past the moon and into orbit around the sun as intended junk, never to be seen again—until perhaps now. A telescope in Hawaii last month discovered the mystery object heading our way while doing a search intended to protect our planet from doomsday rocks. The object promptly was added to the International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center's tally of asteroids and comets found in our solar system, just 5,000 shy of the 1 million mark. The object is estimated to be roughly 26 feet (8 meters) based on its brightness. That's in the ballpark of the old Centaur, which would be less than 32 feet (10 meters) long including its engine nozzle and 10 feet (3 meters) in diameter.

Russian-US crew welcomed aboard the space station

MOSCOW (AP)—A trio of space travelers blasted off to the International Space Station on Wednesday, using for the first time a fast-track maneuver that allowed them to reach the orbiting outpost in just a little over three hours. NASA's Kate Rubins along with Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchkov of the Russian space agency Roscosmos lifted off as scheduled Wednesday morning from the Russia-leased Baikonur space launch facility in Kazakhstan for a six-month stint on the station. For the first time, they tried a two-orbit approach and docked with the space station in just a little over three hours after lift-off. Previously it took twice as long for crews to reach the station. Aboard the station, they were welcomed by the station's NASA commander, Chris Cassidy, and Roscosmos cosmonauts Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner, who have been aboard the complex since April and are scheduled to return to Earth in a week. Speaking during Tuesday's pre-launch news conference at Baikonur, Rubins emphasized that the crew spent weeks in quarantine at the Star City training facility outside Moscow and then on Baikonur to avoid any threat from the coronavirus.

Apple unveils new iPhones for faster 5G wireless networks

(AP)—Apple unveiled four new iPhones equipped with technology for use with faster new 5G wireless networks, hoping that demand for higher data speeds will spark demand for new phones. In a virtual presentation Tuesday, the company announced four 5G-enabled versions of the new iPhone 12 ranging in price from almost $700 to roughly $1,100. Apple also announced a new, less expensive version of its HomePod smart speaker. Smartphone sales have been slowing for years as their technology has matured. That has meant far fewer gotta-have-it innovations that can drive demand and, at least until recently, increasingly pricey phones. Add to that pandemic-related economic crisis, and consumers have tended to eke as much life as possible out of their existing phones. Apple, however, is clearly betting that 5G speeds could push many users off the fence. At its event, the company boasted about 5G capabilities and brought in Verizon CEO Hans Vestberg to champion the carrier's network. 5G is supposed to mean much faster speeds, making it quicker to download movies or games, for instance. But finding those speeds can be a challenge. While telecom operators have been rolling out 5G networks, significant boosts in speed are still uncommon in much of the world, including the U.S. So far, there are no popular new consumer applications that require 5G.

SI YU'US MA'ASE, GHILISOU, THANK YOU

†Cypriana Faustina Taitano Kapileo

Our Family is blessed with an abundance of relatives, friends, and acquaintances who unselfishly visited, called, or sent heartfelt messages of condolences upon hearing of Cypriana's passing. We are comforted by and grateful to all who prayed with us, imploring the Lord of grace, blessings, and mercy. Our sincere appreciation for all those who attended the daily masses offered and joined us in the nightly rosary. We also thank the CHCC doctors and nurses, the Hemodialysis and ICU Teams who took care of her throughout her final days. We thank the Thaddeus Choir, the Santa Remedios Mystic Voices, and those who sang throughout the masses and rosary.

To everyone, including our friends and relatives who joined us virtually, we are forever grateful. May God Bless Us All.

Veronica Esther (Noning) Taitano Kapileo, Children, and Grandchildren

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

†Maria Concepcion Quitugua Babauta

On behalf of our dearly departed, Maria Concepcion Quitugua Babauta, we the family extend a grateful and sincere appreciation to all who in any way or form, consoled and supported us in our most trying time. No words can adequately express our gratitude, nor can we ever repay the many kindness and generosity bestowed.

Although time with our beloved Maria was brief, the solace received and shared are profoundly engraved and cherished. Moments may come and go, but the memories will not be forgotten and ever more dear.

Once again, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisou, and thank you very much for your time, presence, support, and love.

QUITUGUA-BABAUTA FAMILY

Life & Style

Post Malone

owns Billboard Awards, Legend shines onstage

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Walking into the show with 16 nominations, Post Malone won nine honors at the 2020 Billboard Music Awards, where John Legend gave a heartfelt performance that was dedicated to his wife.

With his voice aching as he sang passionately from the piano, Legend told viewers "this is for Chrissy" before singing "Never Break," which includes the lyrics "we will never break." The performance comes two weeks after Chrissy Teigen announced she had a miscarriage, explaining in a heart wrenching social media post that she and Legend drove "home from the hospital with no baby."

"John, that was so beautiful," host Kelly Clarkson said following Legend's performance. "All my love to you and Chrissy."

It was one of several performances that were pre-taped for Wednesday's show. Other musicians attended and performed at the empty Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles during the three-hour show, which aired on NBC.

After announcing that Malone won the show's biggest honor, top artist, Clarkson wheeled out eight more trophies for the hitmaker.

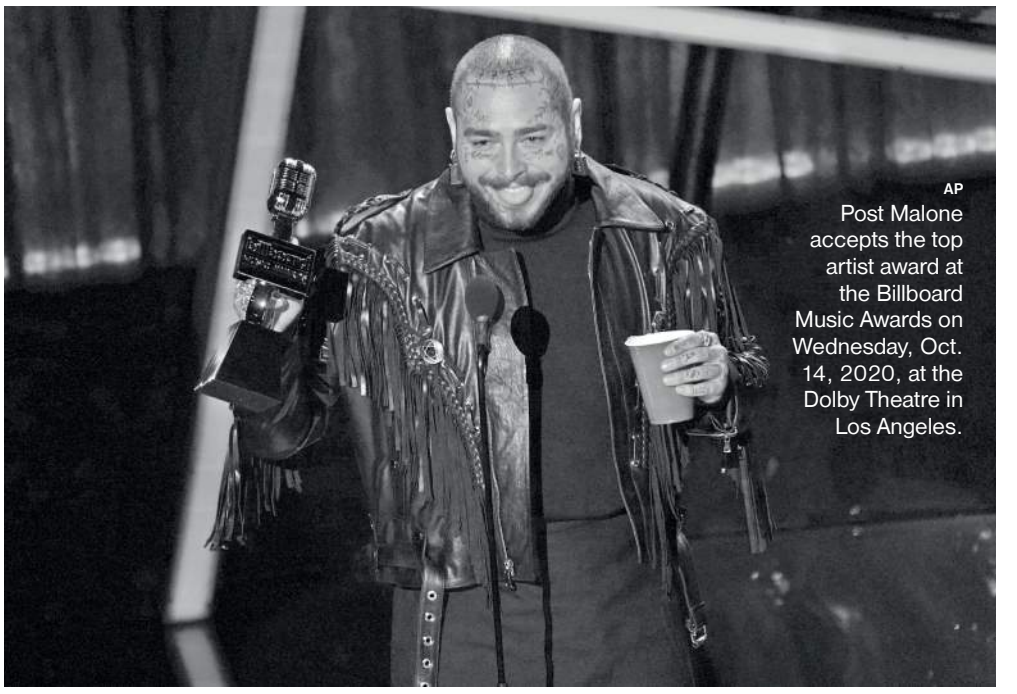
"I'm honestly blown away by the love everyone's shown to me," said Malone, who also won top rap artist, top male artist and top rap album. "It's kind of big deal to me and everybody involved because we work our (butts) off."

He beat out Eilish for the top prize, but she was still a winner, taking home top Billboard 200 album, top female artist and top new artist.

The 18-year-old, wearing a face mask, told viewers to "please vote, please wear a mask, please wash your hands."

Others had similar messages. Khalid, who won five honors, told fans "your voice matters now more than ever." And Lizzo wore a black dress with "vote" printed across it.

She also gave an encouraging speech, telling viewers to find their voices and don't change to meet society standards.



AP
Post Malone accepts the top artist award at the Billboard Music Awards on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

"I just want to say I've been thinking a lot about suppression and the voices that refused to be suppressed. And I wonder, 'Would I be standing here right now if it weren't for the big Black women who refuse to have their voices be suppressed?' And I just want to say right now, if you're at home watching this and you were thinking about changing yourself to feel worthy, this is your sign to remain true to who you are," Lizzo said onstage after winning top songs sales artist.

"Let me tell you all something—when people try to suppress something, it's normally because that thing holds power. They're afraid of your power. There's power in who you are. There's power in your voice. So whether it's through music, protest or your right to vote, use your power, use your voice and refuse to be suppressed."

Other winners included Lil Nas X, who took home four honors and was on-hand to accept top Hot 100 song for "Old Town Road," which set the record for most weeks at No. 1. Kanye West, who released two gospel albums last year, also won four prizes: top gospel artist, top gospel song, top gospel album and top Christian album.

Luke Combs followed with three wins, and after his performance he offered positive words to his fans and the crew working on the awards show.

"I know that everybody has been through so much this year. I wanna thank the crew that is working on this show tonight because they have gone through some insane stuff to make this happen for you guys. I hope everybody is staying safe there at home," he said.

WINNERS' LIST

A list of winners in the top categories at the 2020 Billboard Music Awards, held Wednesday at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

- **Top Hot 100 song:** "Old Town Road," Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus
- **Top Billboard 200 album:** Billie Eilish, "When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?"
- **Top artist:** Post Malone
- Top new artist: Billie Eilish
- **Top female artist:** Billie Eilish
- **Top male artist:** Post Malone
- **Top streaming songs artist:** Post Malone
- **Top song sales artist:** Lizzo
- **Top radio songs artist:** Jonas Bros.
- **Top duo/group:** Jonas Bros.
- **Top R&B artist:** Khalid
- **Top rap artist:** Post Malone
- **Top country artist:** Luke Combs
- **Top rock artist:** Panic! at the Disco
- **Top Latin artist:** Bad Bunny
- **Top dance/electronic artist:** The Chainsmokers
- **Top Christian artist:** Lauren Daigle
- **Top gospel artist:** Kanye West
- **Top social artist:** BTS
- **Top touring artist:** Pink
- Chart achievement award: Harry Styles
- **Icon award:** Garth Brooks

For a complete list of winners, visit: http://www.billboard.com/

Sculptor will be 1st Black woman to represent US at Biennale

Simone Leigh is renowned for creating artworks that transcend race and gender to celebrate Black women and give them a voice. Now she's sculpting her way into history.

She'll be the first Black woman ever to represent the U.S. at the prestigious Venice Biennale arts festival, the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art said Wednesday.

Leigh, who lives in New York City and gives interviews infrequently, declined to comment—but it's clear that the national reckoning with racial injustice has been on her mind.

"I'm so looking forward to a respite from this climate we are living through," she said in a recent Instagram post.

The Chicago native is creating a new series of sculptures for the U.S. pavilion at the 59th Biennale to be held in 2022, said the Boston museum, which is organizing a major exhibition of Leigh's work to be displayed in 2023.

Leigh originally was to appear at next year's Biennale, but the coronavirus pandemic prompted organizers to delay the 2021 edition by a year, Institute of Contemporary Art spokesperson Margaux Leonard told The Associated Press. ***(AP)***

Family friend fears young woman is addicted to meth

DEAR ABBY: The 22-year-old daughter of close friends of ours has been living in a van during the pandemic. Her parents, my husband and I heard her on her cellphone talking about a party where her friends were doing meth. No one reacted except me. I said, "That's terrifying!" and she answered, "Right?"

I cannot stop worrying about this young woman, who I have watched grow since she was a baby. The red spots on her face, which I had assumed were from acne, now haunt me. What can I do?

I had offered her the use of our driveway, if needed, but I don't want meth users here because I have two college-age sons, so now I regret even that. I feel since she broached the topic she was asking for help. Her mom let it completely slide. Help!

SICK WITH WORRY IN COLORADO

DEAR SICK: The baby you watched grow up is now an adult. If you think she was asking for help because she is addicted to methamphetamine, talk to her and offer to help her get it. IF she says she wants to move her van to your property, explain that as long as she is using and/or partying with contemporaries who do, the offer is off the table.

As to her parents who, from what you wrote, appear to be clueless, tell them you are alarmed and why, and urge them to go online and educate themselves about the symptoms of meth addiction, which include facial sores.

DEAR ABBY: I have a wonderful husband. He is very outgoing, and I would like to think of myself as the same, but I work hard. He always makes plans for the weekends, but sometimes I just want to stay home, relax and get the house in order. The problem is, he insists we go and do something like day or overnight trips hours away every weekend. I encourage him to go visit our friends because I know I can trust him, and I need some alone time! Am I wrong for that?

PEACEFUL AND STILL

DEAR PEACEFUL: You are not wrong. You are as entitled to your feelings as your husband is to his. Things should not always have to be his way. The two of you need to work out a compromise. (Compromise is the secret ingredient in happy marriages.) If he feels the need to get away and it doesn't bother you because you trust him, you should be entitled to time at home to get the place—and your head—straight.

DEAR ABBY: I am my husband's second wife. His first wife died of cancer eight years ago. His late wife's mother still calls him her son-in-law and introduces him as such. She also asks him to help her with things around the house, like getting mulch and remodeling the bath. She invites all of us over to holidays, but I can't help but feel awkward. Am I overreacting? Shouldn't she find someone else to help her now that bond is broken?

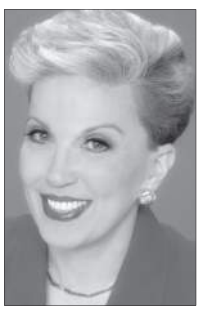
IN THE PRESENT IN INDIANA

DEAR IN THE PRESENT: If the bond were broken, your husband's former mother-in-law would find someone else, and your husband would help her to do it. He may still feel like a member of that family. Please be smart and less defensive. The woman is making an effort to include you in her celebrations. Accept the gesture for what it is and be gracious.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

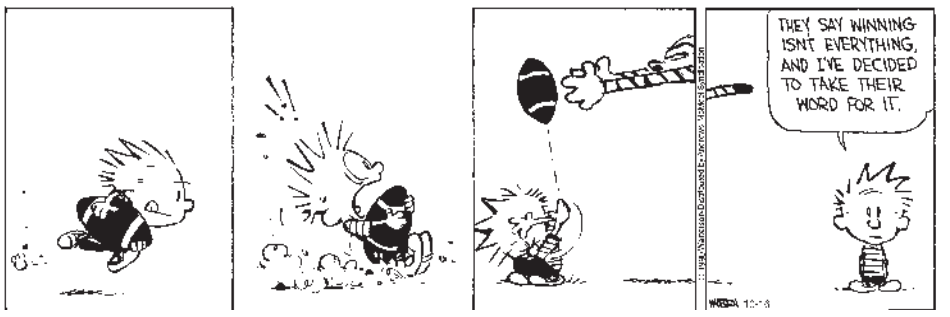


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

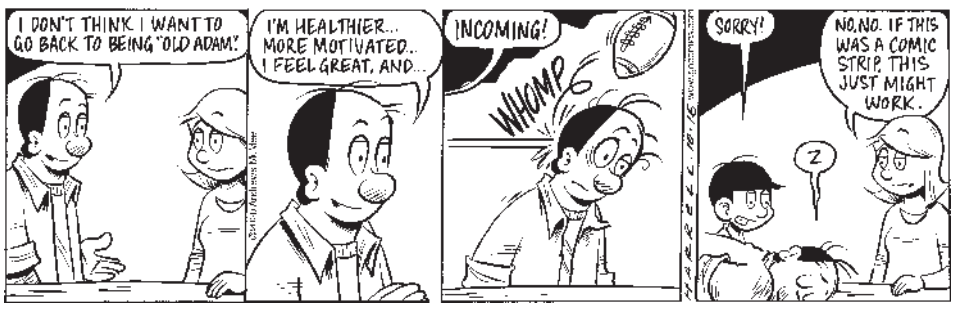


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

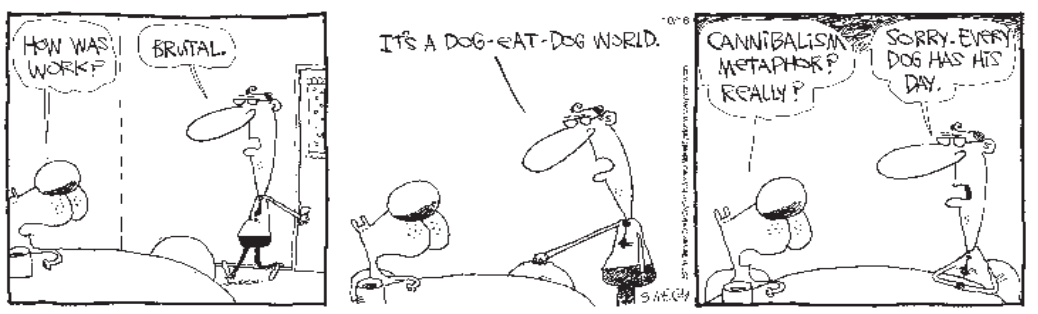
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I DON'T THINK I WANT TO GO BACK TO BEING "OLD ADAM."
I'M HEALTHIER... MORE MOTIVATED.. I FEEL GREAT, AND...
INCOMING!
WHOMP
SORRY!
NO, NO. IF THIS WAS A COMIC STRIP, THIS JUST MIGHT WORK.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

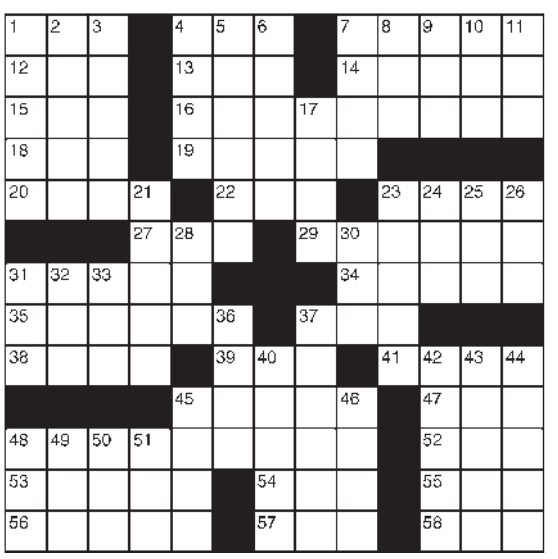
ACROSS
1 Menagerie
4 Scrap
7 Politico Stevenson
12 Online chats, briefly
13 Church seat
14 Acropolis attractions
15 Varnish ingredient
16 Consider
18 When doubled, it's a dance
19 Tennis star Monica
20 Injure
22 Hearty quaff
23 Border on
27 911 responder
29 Tinker
31 Mild cigar
34 Landscaping plant
35 Primitive urge
37 Abysmal
38 Coup d'—
39 Jurist Fortas
41 Online auction site
45 Milky Way points
47 "Evil Woman" band
48 Analyze to death
52 Plaything
53 Book's page number
54 Roman 52
55 — -cone
56 Let
57 Filming site
58 "Certainly!"

DOWN
1 Nada
2 D-Day beach
3 Film trophy
4 Makes a choice
5 Warm up anew
6 Suit material
7 Places of refuge
8 Pair
9 Actress Tyler
10 Hydrocarbon suffix
11 Leb. neighbor
17 Must have
21 Deserve
23 Home
24 Small ammo
25 Last (Abbr.)
26 Chai, e.g.
28 Chic, to Austin Powers
30 "Caught ya!"
31 Browns, on scoreboards
32 Ignited
33 Lawyers' gp.
36 Vow
37 Vermont's Sen. Sanders
40 Empties the boat of water
42 "Heavens to —!"
43 Stag
44 Things with strings
45 Pack cargo
46 Revue segment
48 One — kind
49 Book-spine abbr.
50 Right angle
51 Brazilian city

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	R	F		R	E	P	O		S	O	R	E
L	Y	E		E	F	I	N		T	R	E	E
F	E	E	D	B	A	C	K		F	E	A	L
		L	O	O		S	E	N	I	C	F	S
L	A	C	E	R	S		Y	A	F			
U	N	C		N	I	X		P	E	E	L	S
L	O	C	P		P	E	V		S	N	U	G
U	N	D	E	R		S	A	M		T	A	T
			B	E	L		T	A	L	R	U	S
P	A	R	B	O	I	L		C	P	Y		
R	I	A	L			L	E	G	A	L	F	E	E
E	D	G	E		A	N	E	W		E	A	R
P	S	A	S		C	O	O	S		E	T	E

Yesterday's answer 10-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kellie Martin, 45; Kim Wayans, 59; Tim Robbins, 62; Angela Lansbury, 95.

Happy Birthday: Stay in control. Refuse to let anyone push you in an undesirable direction. Change has to be for the right reason and at the right time. Preparation will make a difference between failure and success. Bide your time until the end of the year, and you'll be ready to bring about the changes that will lead to a better future. Your numbers are 9, 15, 23, 32, 34, 37, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Step aside if it will help you keep the peace. Now is not the time to start an argument with someone who can influence your prospects. Be part of the solution, not the problem, and you will reach your objectives. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Jump at the chance to make a change. Head in a direction that excites you. Don't worry about pleasing someone else when it's you who has to live with the outcome. Follow your heart, and explore the future with optimism. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You can't please everyone, so do what's best for you. Keep your intentions to yourself until you have established the best way to proceed. Too much talk will give someone a chance to interfere with your plans. Channel your energy into personal gain. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* When in doubt, sit tight. Be observant, but don't meddle. Keep the peace now, and you will be in a better position to get your way in the end. Make personal improvements and romance your priorities. Enjoy what life has to offer. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You'll be caught between a rock and a hard place if you let someone drag you into their fight. Quiet support is the best way to handle a difficult situation. If you take over, you will wish you hadn't. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep your money and possessions in a safe place. Don't take a risk or get involved in joint ventures. Make a change that will protect you from loss and encourage you to learn more about how best to handle your finances. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A financial change is heading your way. Be careful not to act in haste when patience is required. How you handle partnerships, domestic situations and shared assets will determine how well you do. Keep an open mind, but don't be emotionally impulsive. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take care of responsibilities quickly, and move on to more enjoyable pastimes. Discuss your thoughts and feelings with someone you love, and you'll get the help you need to make your wishes come true. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take on a challenge that will energize and spark your enthusiasm. You'll accomplish plenty if you don't allow outside interference. An invitation to attend a reunion may tempt you, but consider your safety, health and well-being before you accept it. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't make a premature move. Bide your time, and pay attention to detail. Do things right the first time. A well-thought-out plan, discussed with those affected by the decision you make, will lead to a better future. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take care of unfinished business. Once you know where you stand, you will find it easier to tie up loose ends and relax. A joint venture may interest you, but do your own thing. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't spend to impress. The best way to gain respect and popularity is to offer your services or experience, not your cash. A last-minute change of plans will favor you. Time spent with someone you love will bring you closer. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, stubborn and innovative. You are intelligent and perplexing.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8	2	4	
	6					7
9		7		3		6
	2			1		3
		3				
1	3			9		
2		1		9	5	
5				4		
	8	1	6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	5	4	9	3	1	2	7	8
2	9	8	6	7	4	5	3	1
7	1	3	5	2	8	6	9	4
4	7	5	8	9	2	3	1	6
1	6	2	7	4	3	9	8	5
8	3	9	1	5	6	4	2	7
3	8	1	4	6	9	7	5	2
5	2	6	3	8	7	1	4	9
9	4	7	2	1	5	8	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CAMPHOR Solution: 7 letters

S	E	D	A	T	I	V	E	S	Y	A	G	N	E	B
P	C	S	B	A	B	Y	T	E	I	X	N	A	U	I
A	L	A	E	S	E	L	C	S	U	M	L	R	N	O
S	L	A	E	R	S	N	R	U	B	I	O	C	S	F
M	S	T	C	D	O	O	W	R	B	Ⓟ	E	M	U	R
S	I	E	L	I	I	S	O	I	A	N	Ⓐ	M	B	E
B	A	O	N	L	P	M	D	V	S	E	I	Ⓘ	S	E
G	C	S	S	F	I	O	I	E	R	G	T	G	Ⓝ	Z
N	N	A	E	D	F	C	T	C	A	T	N	T	T	E
O	E	I	E	H	K	I	S	N	E	I	C	A	N	H
R	S	M	H	S	T	H	T	R	T	A	S	E	O	C
T	T	E	L	C	O	O	L	S	R	T	P	M	I	A
S	R	L	H	W	T	T	O	T	E	R	U	S	T	R
I	A	T	E	C	N	I	X	S	E	E	D	S	O	A
G	W	R	S	T	A	E	R	T	S	G	N	U	L	E

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Aches, Acne, Anxiety, Baby, Balm, Bengay, Biofreeze, Bites, Bitter, Bromide, Burns, Cold, Cools, Creams, Earache, Extract, Fumigant, Hot, Incense, Itching, Libido, Lotion, Lungs, Melt, Muscles, Oils, Pain, Rust, Sedatives, Seeds, Shower, Soothes, Sores, Spasms, Stiffness, Stings, Strong, Tastes, Terpene, Topical, Treats, VapoRub, Vicks, Warts, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Charlotte

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Mavs ahead in line to get Giannis from Bucks

DALLAS—The Milwaukee Bucks obviously want to keep Giannis Antetokounmpo, who can become an unrestricted free agent in 2021. The Heat are in hot pursuit (and just made a strong case during these playoffs). The Raptors and Warriors covet Antetokounmpo. The Clippers and Lakers have also been linked to the MVP.

And then there are the Mavericks.

According to Brian Windhorst of ESPN, the Miami Heat are a team that a lot of people look at as trying to get Antetokounmpo out of Milwaukee. The Dallas Mavericks, however, are going to be really at the front of that line. Of course, every team wants Antetokounmpo. But many teams believe they have no chance of getting him and therefore won't pursue him. The Mavericks merely chasing Antetokounmpo hard would be a significant development.

Dallas had a breakthrough season behind Luka Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis, winning 57% of their games and challenging the Clippers in the first round of the playoffs. But it'll be tougher to build on that next season if prioritizing 2021 cap space.

The Mavericks project to have nearly max cap space that summer if the salary cap hits its previous projection of $125 million. But economic fallout of coronavirus could obviously send the cap far lower.

Dallas will likely play it safe by not signing someone to a multi-year contract with the mid-level exception this offseason. Really, the Mavericks could go further and unload any of the several players with 2021-22 salaries that could interfere with an Antetokounmpo pursuit: Dwight Powell ($11,080,125); Delon Wright ($8,526,316); Maxi Kleber ($8,750,000); Seth Curry ($8,207,518); Dorian Finney-Smith ($4,000,000); and No. 18 pick in 2020 draft ($2,957,520/

based on the salary cap remaining flat next season).

It's always possible to shed salary if Antetokounmpo pledges to sign, but the Mavericks would have more leverage by trading now. Wright, Kleber, Curry and Finney-Smith all just had solid seasons. The No. 18 pick holds more value now, when teams could pick the player they want, than once Dallas makes a selection. (Powell, who's injured, is the exception.)

The Mavericks would just have to be careful not to undermine the roster quality that'd appeal to Antetokounmpo. It's a risky preposition.

But the upside is sky high.

Antetokounmpo is a great player with a bright future. His biggest weakness—creation within halfcourt offense—is where Doncic thrives. Porzingis' 3-point shooting would excellently complement Antetokounmpo's drives. Defensively, Porzingis is an impressive rim protector who could emulate Brook Lopez in a scheme that—with Antetokounmpo—shuts down the paint.

Unlike Los Angeles and Miami, Dallas isn't a city Antetokounmpo has spoken publicly about not wanting to play in. The Mavericks should pursue Antetokounmpo hard.

Signing him would also bring Dallas full circle. In 2013, Mavericks owner Mark Cuban overruled lead executive Donnie Nelson on drafting Antetokounmpo No. 13. Instead, Dallas traded down to preserve cap space for free agents… who never came.

Maybe Antetokounmpo will finally be the big fish the Mavericks land.

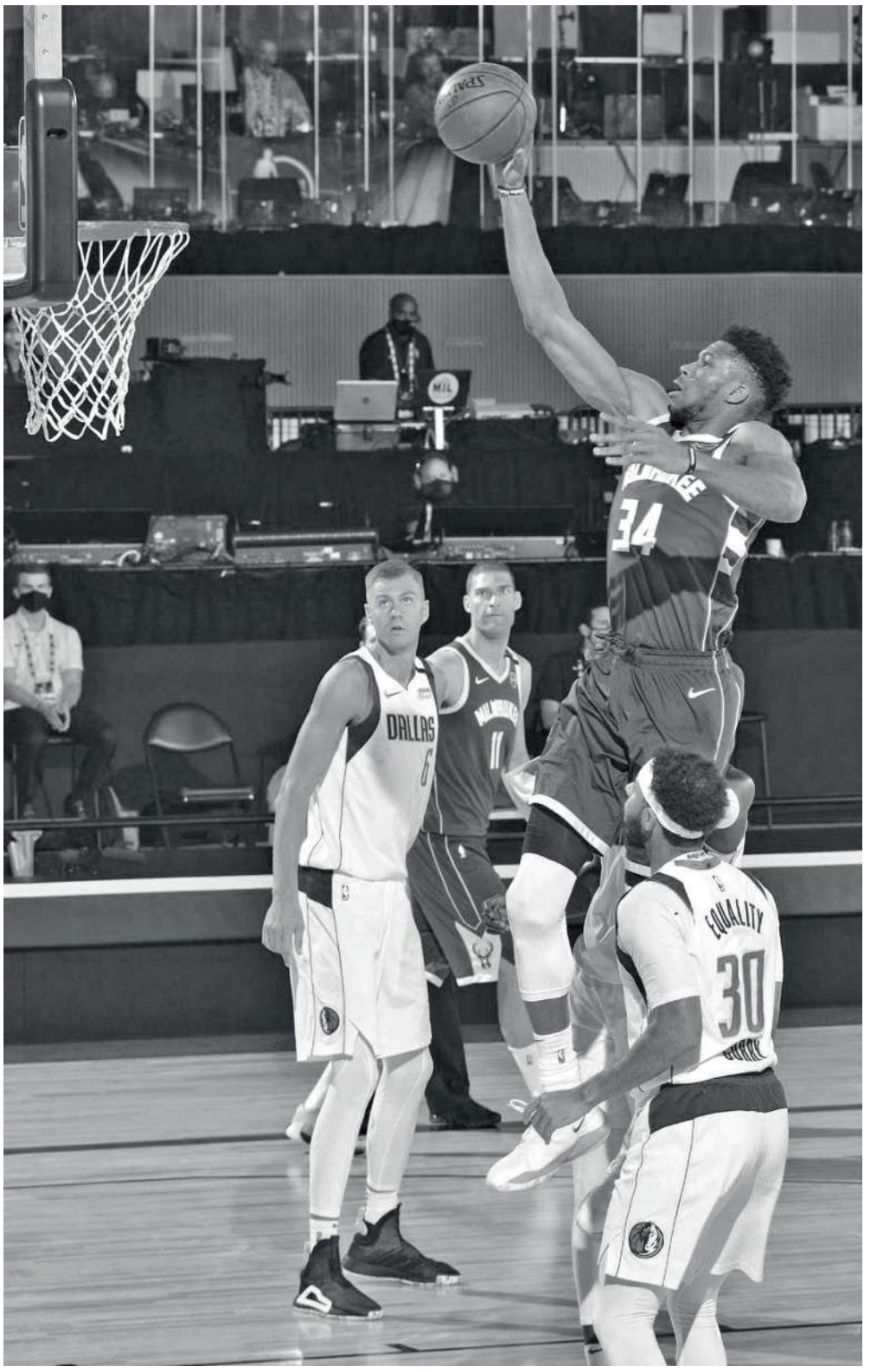
It sounds like they'll try as hard as they can.

Trading up picks

The NBA Finals are in the rearview mirror—even if the Lakers are still celebrating, as they should be—and next up on the calendar is the 2020 NBA Draft, set for Nov. 18.

Rumors and spin are the oil that lubricates the NBA draft engine. What has changed is those rumors have gone from being in smoke-filled back rooms to social media. There are too many rumors, too much spin to keep up with around today's NBA.

The Minnesota Timberwolves would love to trade out of the No. 1 pick for a player who can help them win now. Team president Gersson Rosas told NBC Sports' Tom Haberstroh he was open to it,and the buzz around the league has continued to be they want to make a move. Kevin O'Conner wrote this at The Ringer in his mock draft: "Executives around the NBA say the Timberwolves prefer to trade down or out of this pick to bring in a win-now player to help Karl-Anthony Towns and D'Angelo Russell."



AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) takes a shot in front of Dallas Mavericks defenders during an NBA game Saturday, Aug. 8, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

We know that Bob Myers and the Warriors also are open to trading out of the No. 2 pick, and the buzz is they continue to look for a trade for their pick as well.

The question is: Who would be a buyer for those picks? There was some thought in NBA circles that the Knicks would be willing to move up from the No. 8 spot to land the potential of LaMelo Ball—and new Knicks' president Leon Rose is reportedly highest on Ball and James Wiseman in this draft. Still, New York is reportedly more interested in trading down than up. If the Timberwolves or Warriors find a taker for those picks, they will not get the same haul they would most seasons. Nobody is high on the top of this draft board.

A lot of executives consider Wiseman to be among the safer players in the draft. Simply put, few executives doubt that his size, length and athleticism will translate into being a starting quality NBA center. Where the doubt comes in is with Wiseman is if he can be a star player.

A few around the league say yes, but there is a lot of concern he will not be happy in his role in the league. The concern is he wants the ball, wants to face up and attack like Antetokounmpo or Anthony Davis, and Wiseman simply isn't that good. He's not going to be that guy at the NBA level. Would he continue to work hard in a lesser role?

If the Warriors keep the No. 2 pick, might they target Deni Avdija out of Israel? Avdija makes sense as a target due to his versatility, playmaking, and high basketball IQ, all qualities that helped Golden State reach five straight NBA Finals. ***(AP/NBC)***

Knicks 'would poke around' on trading for Westbrook

NEW YORK (AP)—Knicks fans are interested to see what new team president Leon Rose's first offseason will look like, especially when it comes to the 2020 NBA Draft. But Rose may also want to make a splash with a blockbuster trade to bring a proven player to the Big Apple.

SportsNet New York's Ian Begley has brought up Chris Paul in the past as a veteran point guard the Knicks could definitely consider if the Oklahoma City Thunder want to trade him. But how about a former teammate of his?

Begley is hearing that "some agents who represent top point guard free agents" think the Knicks could be interested in a trade for former MVP PG Russell Westbrook.

The Rockets would, of course, have to make him available. If that were to happen, Westbrook did make it known that New York would be a place he'd like to play when the Thunder began talking to teams about the trade that ultimately landed him in Houston.

Westbrook would certainly fix the Knicks' point guard situation, and as Begley points out, his drive to be great as well as his work ethic would be perfect for the young players to emulate.

The Knicks would be taking on a big contract if a deal of this caliber would go through. Westbrook is owed $132 million still on his contract over the next three seasons. Begley suggests the Knicks would probably ask Houston for another asset because they'd be taking on such a deal.

It may seem like a longshot, as James Harden and Westbrook seemed to mesh well with each other in their first season together. Houston might not want to break that up.

But with a new team president in Rose, who is trying to get the Knicks back to where they once were and ended the losing drought, he may be willing to coerce the Rockets into sending a perennial All-Star to New York to lead the franchise.

D'Antoni may join Nash in Nets

Steve Nash became an MVP and Hall of Famer playing for Mike D'Antoni in Phoenix (and they were together on the Lakers as well).

Now D'Antoni's next job could be as the right-hand man of Nash in Brooklyn.

There are multiple reports now out of New York that D'Antoni could join the staff of first-time Nash in Brooklyn.

Nash could have an impressive staff in Brooklyn. Jacque Vaughn—the former Orlando head coach who became the Nets' interim coach after Kenny Atkinson was fired—is the lead assistant. D'Antoni would have a big role, and you'd be hard-pressed to find a more respected assistant coach around the league than Handy.

Brooklyn enters next season with a lot of talent—Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving, Caris LeVert, Spencer Dinwiddie, Jarrett Allen, and more—but questions about fit and style of play. What is this going to look like? How much of the "we will work harder than you" culture Atkinson built will remain? Do the Nets have enough, or like Irving said do they need one more piece in an East with Giannis Antetokounmpo and Milwaukee, on-the-rise Boston with Jayson Brown and Jaylen Tatum, Philadelphia with Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons in, and this year's East champions Jimmy Butler and Miami?

It is a lot to ask, but adding D'Antoni to the mix makes the Nets better.

Dodgers dominate Braves in Game 3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers were already having a grand time before Max Muncy's big slam capped the highest-scoring inning in a major league playoff game.

That new ballpark in his home state of Texas where the Dodgers hope to keep playing right through the World Series suddenly doesn't seem too big anymore, and they are right back in the National League Championship Series after a 15-3 rout of the Atlanta Braves on Wednesday night.

Muncy's slam off Grant Dayton capped an 11-run first inning when Los Angeles benefitted from a game-starting replay challenge, hit three home runs and had nine consecutive batters reach base after two outs. The Dodgers set franchise postseason records for runs and home runs with five, cutting their NLCS deficit to 2 games to 1.

"It's pretty cool. Not too many things that are cooler than that," Muncy said. "But the biggest thing to me is our team got a W and got us back on track."

Joc Pederson hit a three-run homer off starter Kyle Wright to start his four-hit night, and Edwin Rios went deep on next pitch. Corey Seager had a pair of RBI hits in the opening burst, then added a solo homer in the third as the Dodgers built a 15-0 lead—the first team with that many runs in the first three innings of a postseason game.

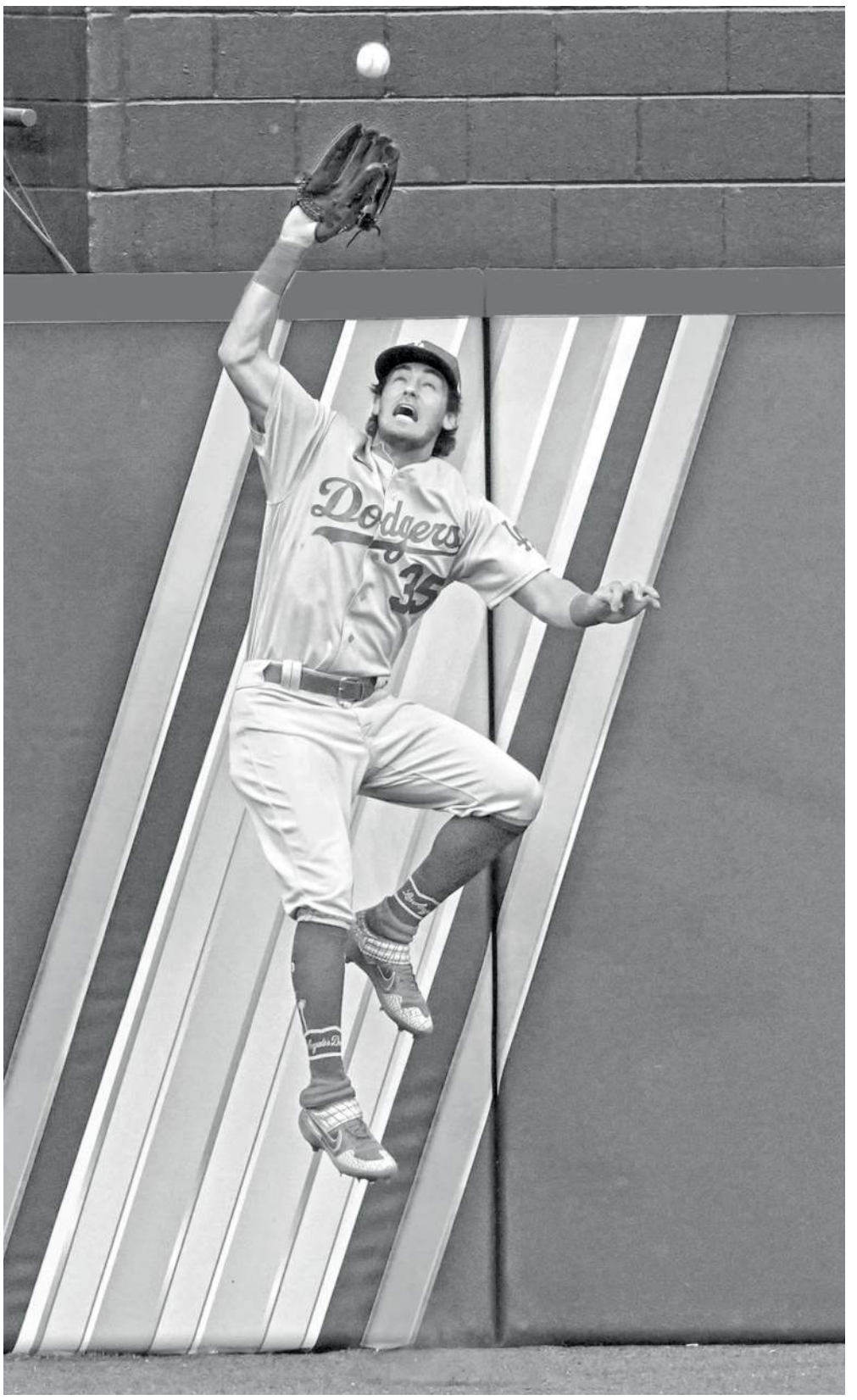
Winner Julio Urías, made his first postseason start and improved to 3-0 in these playoffs, striking out five while allowing one run and three hits over five innings. He walked the first two batters but no more.

Atlanta's miserable start was eerily similar to the Braves' flop in Game 5 of last year's Division Series against St. Louis, when they gave up a 10-run first inning at home in a season-ending start by Mike Foltynewicz.

Manager Dave Roberts said Clayton Kershaw will start Game 4 for the Dodgers, two nights after the three-time NL Cy Young Award winner from Dallas was scratched because of back spasms. Bryse Wilson makes his postseason debut as the third rookie right-handed starter for Atlanta in this series in what will be his first appearance since the final day of the regular season on Sept. 27.

"We still are in a good spot with four games left," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "Like I say, for the whole team, you just turn the page and get ready to go tomorrow."

The Dodgers had left the tying run at third base in a four-run bottom of the ninth during an 8-7 loss on Tuesday night. They were the visiting team in Game 3 and sent 14 batters to the plate for seven hits, three walks and a hit batter over 32 minutes in the the 29,786th half-inning in postseason history.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers center fielder Cody Bellinger robs Atlanta Braves' Ozzie Albies of a home run during the first inning in Game 3 of a the National League Championship Series Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020, in Arlington, Texas.

"It was a carryover," reigning NL MVP Cody Bellinger insisted.

"That was fun to be a part of," Pederson said. "I think some of the momentum from last night, the last inning definitely carried over and got us feeling a little bit more comfortable at the plate."

Those 15 runs over two times up came after the Braves had allowed only nine runs in their previous six games plus eight innings, a stretch that included four shutouts en route to a 7-0 postseason start.

Bellinger walked and scored in the first, led off the second with a homer and added an RBI single in the third. His long ball came right after his running, leaping catch at the center field wall to rob Ozzie Albies with two on to end the Atlanta first.

"It's not ideal how we started the series, but we feel good about ourselves," Bellinger said.

Wright gave up seven runs while facing only nine batters. He had had thrown six scoreless innings in the Game 3 NL Division Series clincher over Miami last Thursday.

Mookie Betts had an infield single on the first pitch of the game, though he was initially called out before a replay challenge overturned the call by umpire Dan Iassogna. Seager drove in Betts with a double on the next pitch before groundouts by Justin Turner and Muncy.

"To get that infield hit, and then the next pitch, you see two pitches and you've already got a run, that was quite the change," Roberts said.

Astros stay alive

José Altuve and the Houston Astros are eager to match the 2004 Boston Red Sox in the history books.

Beating the Tampa Bay Rays three more times to reach the World Series won't be easy, but the Astros believe they can do it.

George Springer broke a tie with a two-run homer, Altuve also went deep and hit an RBI double, and Zack Greinke escaped a bases-loaded jam as Houston stayed alive in the AL Championship Series with a 4-3 victory Wednesday night in Game 4.

"We are very motivated," Altuve said. "We know the team we have and yes, we want to be the second team coming back from 0-3."

Big league clubs leading 3-0 in a best-of-seven postseason series are 37-1. The only one to rally from an 0-3 deficit was the 2004 Red Sox, who beat the New York Yankees in the ALCS and went on to win their first World Series in 86 seasons.

Greinke pitched six effective innings for the Astros, who held a meeting before the game. Houston manager Dusty Baker said he had no idea what was brought up, but he also addressed the team.

"We've got some real leaders on this team, some dominant personalities who listen more than they talk," Baker said.

With Altuve atoning for his poor defense in this series, the Astros finally got their offense going after being pushed to the brink of a sweep. Seeking their third pennant in four seasons, they trail 3-1 going into Game 5 on Thursday afternoon.

"I'm just happy that we won the game and we're on to tomorrow," Springer said.

The Rays remain one win from advancing to the World Series for the second time in franchise history.

"The team feels good," rookie slugger Randy Arozarena said. "We're going to stay positive. We came in here knowing we were going to face a solid team. They're probably feeling the same way."

Ronaldo's teammates in isolation; USMNT player McKennie positive

ITALY—The entire Juventus first team has gone into voluntary isolation after another member of the Italian champions—American midfielder Weston McKennie—tested positive for COVID-19.

The news that McKennie had contracted the coronavirus came a day after it was announced that Cristiano Ronaldo, Juve's superstar forward, had also contracted the virus, which has killed more than a million people around the world in less than a year. The club also revealed that a player and staff member with its under-23 team were infected, too. Two other Juventus staffers had recently returned confirmed positive tests.

Several members of the Juventus squad, including Ronaldo, are currently away from the Serie A club and with their respective national teams for UEFA Nations League matches or South American World Cup qualifiers. The first teamers who stayed behind in Turin and returned negative tests will enter isolation on Wednesday night, the team said in a statement.

"This procedure will allow all subjects negative to the controls to carry out regular training and match activities, but will not allow contact with the outside of the group," the statement read in part.

Juventus is supposed to take on Crotone Saturday in Serie A before opening its Champions League slate against Dynamo Kiev next week. The club's most recent league game, scheduled for Oct. 4, was called off after Napoli suffered a COVID-19 outbreak that prevented them from traveling for the match. Juve was awarded a 3-0 win on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Minnesota United's Major League Soccer match against the Chicago Fire was postponed on Wednesday due to a suspected COVID-19 positive among the Minnesota team delegation.

The postponement was made to allow for more testing and evaluation, MLS said in a statement.

The delay to an unspecified date came only minutes before the teams were to have stepped onto the field for a clash of clubs battling for playoff spots.

At 5-8 with four drawn, the visiting Fire sit ninth in the Eastern Conference on 19 points, one ahead of Atlanta United for the last playoff spot in the 14-team East.

Minnesota remained 6-5-5 for 23 points, the Loons holding down fifth in the Western Conference, one point behind Los Angeles FC for the last home berth in next month's opening round of the playoffs.

The Loons also had a home match against Dallas postponed last weekend after multiple positive Covid-19 tests on the squad.

The Chicago-Minnesota contest wasn't the only one postponed on Wednesday. Colorado's planned match against Seattle on Wednesday had already been delayed after an outbreak that has seen five Colorado players and 12 staffers test positive. ***(AP/NBC)***

Newton back for Pats, may start against Broncos

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — The New England Patriots activated quarterback Cam Newton from the NFL's COVID-19 reserve list on Wednesday.

Newton is expected to practice with the team on Thursday, which likely would lead to his starting on Sunday against Denver.

New England was 2-1 with Newton as its starter, then lost at Kansas City when he was sidelined after testing positive for the coronavirus. Newton had tested positive for the coronavirus on Oct. 2.

Three Patriots remain on the COVID-19 reserve list: cornerback Stephon Gilmore, defensive tackle Byron Cowart and practice squad DT Bill Murray. Gilmore was the 2019 NFL Defensive Player of the Year.

New England players say they have found an ally in coach Bill Belichick amid growing local criticism of the NFL's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Belichick's approach to the virus outbreak within the walls of Gillette Stadium has earned him praise from those in the Patriots' locker room as they navigate the stops and re-starts of this unusual NFL season.

AP

Las Vegas Raiders defensive end Maxx Crosby (98) gets a poke in the eye as he closes in to sack New England Patriots quarterback Cam Newton in the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020, in Foxborough, Mass.

"Bill has done a good job of (saying), 'Hey, this is forever kind of changing, it's very fluid,'" Patriots safety Devin McCourty said. "But once we get it, (he says) 'This is what we've got, this is what we're gonna do,' and I think all of us have just kind of (fallen) in line."

New England players returned to the team's facilities on Wednesday for the first time since participating in a walk-through Saturday to prepare for their now twice-postponed game against Denver. After a fourth positive COVID-19 test last Sunday, the NFL rescheduled the game with the Broncos—originally set for Sunday, but bumped to Monday after a handful of positive tests last week—to this coming Sunday.

Devin's brother, Patriots cornerback Jason McCourty, was among those who voiced their displeasure with the league and its players' union last week, claiming "they don't care" about the well-being of players over profit.

"When he speaks, it's from talking to a lot of different people—obviously with the (players association), but I would say most importantly the guys in our locker room," Devin McCourty said.

He added, "I think the biggest thing he said was the guys in the locker room, the guys in the organization, coaches, players—that's what it's about. It's us keeping each other safe. It's hard to imagine people outside of our building are gonna care more about our safety. I think that's just a common sense thought."

New England's facilities were shut down last week from Wednesday through Friday, and another positive test kept the team away until this Wednesday, when players were allowed to return in limited numbers for workouts.

"Knowing that tomorrow was unknown as to when we would get back, it's a challenge — but I think that's just all about being a pro," safety Adrian Phillips said. "When you get to the league … you're gonna have some obstacles that you have to overcome, and this is just one of those obstacles."

As football plans remain in flux, Belichick has continued to make his players a priority, his players say.

"He's been great," running back Rex Burkhead said. "He really has just put our safety, our family's safety first, and he's been in constant communication with us on doing whatever he can or whatever the team can to put in things in place to keep us safe."

In what was originally set as their bye week, the Patriots plan to hold their first practice on Thursday, barring additional virus-related setbacks.

CNMI

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tion of the PGC.

Rogolifoi and the Josh Jones-led CNMI team topped the baseball event in the 2011 Pacific Games held in New Caledonia after beating Guam in the finals, 8-4. No baseball competition was held in the next two editions of the Pacific Games—in 2015 in Papua New Guinea and last year in Samoa.

In the Mini Games, the 2009 (Cook Islands), 2013 (Wallis & Futuna), and 2017 (Vanuatu) competitions moved ahead without baseball. The last time the sport was played in the Mini Games was in 2005 in Palau with Guam taking the gold medal, the host island getting the silver, and the Federated States of Micronesia winning the bronze.

Meanwhile, Rogolifoi said the Saipan Baseball League will meet in the next few weeks to discuss the recent development in the Mini Games and work on the association's next step once a green light has been given to resume sports competitions on island.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this undated file photo, many-time national team coach Tony Rogolifoi, left, facilitates a training session of CNMI youth players at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

RUN

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kilometers) and will "bring" runners from Farallon De Pajaros to Rota with "stops" in 13 other locations on Saipan and Tinian.

Participants will have four months (until Feb. 14, 2022) to complete the course by logging miles through running along any location they prefer—could be along Beach Road, in the boonies, at the Oleai Sports Complex track oval, or even on a treadmill.

Each "stop" along the course has corresponding mileage and teams will get certificates upon arrival to a "new island chain."

The first stop after leaving Farallon De Pajaros is Maug Landing (42-mile mark), followed by Asuncion (67), Agrihan (130), Pagan (175), Alamagan (214), Guguan (234), Sarigan (276), Anatahan (300), Farallon De Medinilla (325), Saipan (376), SIS (388), Tinian (397), Aguijan (410), and Rota (460).

"They will keep track of their miles and input them into a Google Sheet that will add up all of their miles. Every time they hit a new island chain, Run The Marianas will send the team captain a digital certificate with the team name on it, the name of the island they just reached, and some small facts about the island," SIS headmaster Ron Snyder said.

The virtual run is open to individuals or teams with no limit on the number of runners per squad.

"We originally thought of limiting the number of members per team but now we will allow it to be wide open. The point is to improve cardiovascular health so any activity we can help encourage is worth it. The team can divide the mileage anyway they like and the team captain will input the date and number of miles earned on a Google Sheet," Snyder said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Runners cruise along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway, a favorite route for local races.

The SIS headmaster added that he came up with the idea of having a virtual race at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic after seeing an advertisement on advertisement for an Inca Trail Virtual Run (Peru), which covered a way much shorter distance (42K) than the Run The Marianas.

"I thought we could do more. Why not run the entire length of the CNMI? It is ambitious but not impossible," Snyder said.

Team members and individual runners who will complete the journey around the CNMI will receive a two-sided medal that highlights the culture in the Marianas, as the design features latte stone, mwar, and proa.

Only the first 400 to register will be allowed in the virtual run and so far 77 have signed up. Interested teams or individual runners can register online at https://forms.gle/xJdubmG6aQgm4uwSA or contact SIS to sign up and pay the registration fee of $10. Students on class teams will only pay $5. For more information, call 288-9660.

Mavs ahead in line to get Giannis from Bucks

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CNMI braces for tougher baseball competition

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Many-time national team coach Tony Rogolifoi believes the change in the schedule of the Pacific Mini Games will make the baseball tournament even more competitive as participating countries will have the opportunity to prepare longer for the event.

The CNMI-hosted Mini Games will now run from June 17 to 25, 2022 instead of next year, giving not only the host country, but also other nations interested in sending a baseball team in the quadrennial competition more time to strengthen their program and work on a training plan for their respective squads.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
In this 2016 file photo, Peter Lieto pitches for the CNMI during their game against Guam in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. Baseball competition is coming to the islands anew in 2022 with the CNMI's hosting of the Pacific Mini Games.

Rogolifoi said that with the COVID-19 pandemic still a major concern across the globe and has forced either the cancelation or suspension of games, baseball players in the region are not in good shape and ready for tournaments next year.

"In our case, we don't have a league, we don't have a field ready, and we don't know when we will be able to resume baseball on island, as it will all depend on the development with the COVID-19 pandemic," the CNMI Sports Hall of Famer said.

Once action in the diamond is allowed, Rogolifoi said they have to reevaluate the CNMI's baseball program, plan for local competitions first and then work on the selection process and preparation for the national team. These would all need time, which will be on the Commonwealth's side after the Pacific Games Council and the 22-member Pacific Games Association agreed to the CNMI's proposal to move the Mini Games in 2022.

"We would love to see strong teams from New Caledonia, American Samoa, Palau, and of course our rival Guam come down and compete. It's going to be a very competitive baseball tournament," said Rogolifoi, who incidentally coached the gold-medal winning team in the most recent baseball competition under the sanc-

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Run The Marianas kicks off

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School and Northern Marianas Athletics have teamed up to take runners into a "unique" tour around the CNMI with the staging of the Run The Marianas.

The virtual run, which started yesterday, will cover a distance of 460 miles (740

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The medals and certificates for finishers of the Run The Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan International School runners join other students in competing in an interscholastic race in 2018. SIS and Northern Marianas Athletics are hosting the Run The Marianas.